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Reconstructing Robbins

The Robbins principle is – perhaps "was" would be more accurate but there are still a few hopeless optimists left – both elusive and eloquent. It is elusive because the principle itself ("We have assumed as an axiom that courses of higher education should be available for all those who are qualified by ability and attainment to pursue them and who wish to do so") is so vague that it is possible to argue that this has never been true or that it is still true today.

Even glosses on the principle later in the Robbins report, which suggest that what the committee had in mind in practice was that the degree of difficulty experienced by candidates for entry to higher education should not be allowed to become greater, do not help much. "Qualification" and "willingness" are slippery categories, "ability" and "attainment" treacherous ones. The unsatisfactory result is that it is almost impossible to say when the Robbins principle was first breached – was it in the late 1960s, the mid-1970s, 1980, or not until this present autumn?

Yet this lack of proper specification has not detracted at all from the eloquence of the Robbins principle. It is full of a meaning that owes remarkably little to the calculation of age participation rates. It stands as a totem for a bundle of complex and occasionally contradictory aspirations to create a more liberal and a more modern system of higher education. In this more creative context the Robbins principle is necessarily a mystery.

So it may be that if we now feel a strong sense of loss when we contemplate the almost undeniable fact that, however elastic, this principle has now been terminally breached it has as much to do with a decline and even a denial of faith as with the external accident of cuts in public expenditure which are its apparent cause. This is a disturbing conclusion which many would deny. It is infinitely more comfortable to blame the external spectre of "Thatcherism" or the New Right than to recognize the existence, let alone validity, of internal doubt and perhaps demoralization.

Yet it is difficult to believe that higher education's troubles began with Mrs Thatcher, or even with the oil crisis of 1973–74. Well before both, fears had been expressed that the liberal experiment of the new universities had begun to curdle, that the binary recipe of populism and instrumentalism had been, according to taste, under-cooked or over-cooked. Fair or unfair such sceptical doubts corroded the first promise of Robbins and Crosland while the quantitative expansions that flowed from the Robbins report and the binary policy were still accelerating.

Mrs Shirley Williams' rather tentative attempt in 1978 to provoke a debate about the future direction of higher education by publishing the discussion document *Higher Education into the 1990s* exposed this gathering doubt. The stuttering responses to the initiative showed with uncomfortable clarity that the system's collective sense of purpose was much weaker in the late 1970s than at the Robbins/Crosland climax 15 years before. And this was before Mrs Thatcher.

The challenge for universities, polytechnics and colleges in the 1980s is how to devise a new Robbins principle, a principle that embodies not only similar political and administrative dynamism but also the same moralizing, even totemic, eloquence. In the 1980s higher education is going to change at least as much as in the 1960s; cuts or no cuts. The 10 per cent commitment of the university system to continuing education will rise to 20, perhaps 30 per cent. The board of the National Advisory Body, by recommending that more weight should be given to part-time students in the allocation of resources, is seeking to send a powerful message to the polytechnics and colleges with a similar meaning.

We badly need a new principle that can "fix" these new patterns of higher education and invest them with a significance that is both creative in terms of values and dynamic in terms of administration. More basically we need a principle which perhaps cliche-like can sum up this new shape for higher education in the 1980s as successfully as the Robbins principle summed up 1960s higher education for the man in the street.

The prospects for such a reconstructed Robbins principle may be better than they look. After all, if a degree of demoralization can take place during a period of generous expansion, it is not out of the question that a similarly modest degree of remoralization can take place against a background of cuts and even contraction. But the temptation to seek an external alibi in Mrs Thatcher and Sir Keith Joseph as bogey woman and bogey man has to be resisted, despite the very great damage they have caused to higher education. Pessimistic complacency is not much help. After all, the barbarians may not come, and in any case it fails to recognize the barbarian in all of us.

For the essence of the Robbins principle was its liberality. It started with the freely determined wishes of students not with the market driven or bureaucratically derived needs of the economy. Its focus was citizenship not the labour market, although the committee gave far more weight to manpower considerations than is commonly supposed. There is a danger that in the course of the 1980s we may end up with an anti-Robbins principle that emphasizes the instrumental roles of higher education, to the exclusion of the system's academic, social, and even human responsibilities.

Laurie Taylor

Bertrand Russell College
Room C.214 (A)
October 9

Dear Mummy and Daddy

I've just got a few minutes before going over on the guided tour of the library, so I thought I'd drop you a note to let you know that everything so far is going well.

My room is a bit cramped as Dad said when he was helping me in with my trunk, but the person I share it with is Christian Union, so that he keeps very much to himself.

I've made friends already with someone from down the corridor. He's not really a first year because he was here last year as well. But for some reason or other he left after the first term and is now coming back to start again. We talk about football although he comes from Manchester and supports United and says – and Dad won't like this very much I'm afraid – that he didn't know Hereford actually had a football team! His real name is Mike but everyone calls him "United" because that's what he's always chanting when he's had a few drinks. Perhaps you'll get a chance to meet him at Christmas.

Yesterday I went to the bookshop and bought most of the essential reading on the list. I think that this must be a very good department because I noticed how many of the books on the list were actually written by tutors I'd met in the last few days. Professor Lapping, for example, has written four books and they all turn out to be essential reading.

I went to the Freshers' Payre and like Daddy suggested, signed up for the Industrial Society, and for that other group which teaches you how to act like a businessman. Also I joined the Real Ale Society which you will be interested to hear is the biggest of all the campus societies, and really gets things done. Apparently there's now real ale in all the union bars (although that doesn't interest Mike very much because he "makes his own" in a huge polythene bucket).

My early Police records are popular in the corridor. Most people have got the same ones. And Mummy, you will be pleased to hear that I've finally started reading *Brideshead Revisited*, and already think that it's better than the television. I've also got a rail card, despite a huge queue, in terms of politics, I may join the Social Democrats, mainly because I was quite impressed by the union president (who is one) when he said in his welcoming address that the main job of the union should be to look after the interests of students and not to get involved in overseas political matters in places like South Africa and I think he said Auschwitz (is that possible, or have I got it wrong?).

I will write to you again after our first lecture, which probably won't be until the week after next because there seems some problem over registration. Professor Lapping told us the departmental secretary was suffering from "emotional strain", but she looked all right at last night's Doctor Feelgood concert.

Oh yes, by the way, you'll notice one slight change when you next see me. I hope you won't mind too much, but I've decided to have an earring in my left ear. It's very small, but so many people have got them not that you honestly stick out a bit without one.

Love to sister Karen (if she wants it)

from

Scott gives ultimatum on Ulster

The New University of Ulster will close unless it merges with Ulster Polytechnic, Northern Ireland education Minister Mr Nicholas Scott warned sharply this week.

In a letter to Sir Robert Kidd, chairman of the university's council, Mr Scott said the merger was practicable and desirable "and is the only viable alternative to closure of NUU."

The letter welcomed the decision by the steering group overseeing the merger to reject NUU's objections to yesterday's interviews for a vice chancellor-designate. Sir Robert had led a deputation to the steering group asking for the appointment meeting to be deferred.

But NUU issued a statement saying that neither the vice chancellor Dr William Cockeroft nor any other representative would go to the meeting.

The steering group's determination to go ahead means that the other candidate, Ulster Polytechnic rector [illegible] is effectively left with the post. In a statement the steering group, which is chaired by Sir Peter Swinnerton-Dyer, said:

"... we would hope in the light of those meetings we would find ourselves in a position to make an offer of the vice chancellorship designate. We would not feel prevented from proceeding in this way either because only one of the two chose to meet us or because one or other institutions was unrepresented."

This message was backed up by a tough letter from Mr Scott to Sir Robert. It claimed NUU had revealed "a fundamental misunderstanding" in believing that the proposed merger was still only a suggestion which still needed to be explored or that the idea needed the approval of the NUU court.

He wrote "The remit of the steering group is to take forward the necessary planning work for the creation of a new institution which will replace both NUU and the polytechnic.

"If it is not clear at an early stage that the steering group's work will be brought to a successful conclusion there would be no justification for continued funding of new intakes to NUU."

Mr Scott accepted that the university had its own powers and responsibilities and was entitled to form its own views on these matters, but these considerations would not be allowed to delay the process.

The minister said it was not reasonable for the university to claim the right to determine unilaterally when and how designation of the vice chancellor should be taken.

Universities forced to sell assets

by Ngaio Crequer and Peter Scott

Universities may soon be forced to sell surplus land and buildings, or suffer even more severe cuts in their already much reduced grant.

In its search for new ways to cut public expenditure the Treasury is arguing that, as universities will soon have spare plant as a result of the present three-year rundown, their grant can be reduced by an amount equal to the value of these disposable assets.

This would break a promise made to the universities by the University Grants Committee that they can keep the proceeds of sales up to £100,000 for further capital expenditure and that their grants will only be reduced by half of the value of any sales above that figure.

The UGC is resisting the Treasury's new line. In an interview with *The THES* Dr Edward Parkes, the committee's chairman, admitted that using the sale of assets to make further cuts in the universities' recurrent grant was "very alluring to the Treasury at first sight".

He added: "We are arguing that its potential yield would be negligible over the next year or so because some extra capital expenditure will be required for restructuring and because there will be few takers for unneeded university property, especially on green field sites."

This point was also taken up by the Committee of Vice Chancellors and Principals. Mr Brian Taylor, executive secretary said: "The notion is far too simplistic as there is no immediate and direct relationship between buildings and numbers.

"We have to cope with restructuring but even if some buildings in some universities were not to be required in future, buyers could be exceedingly difficult to find."

Most universities are now seriously examining opportunities to relinquish buildings, either because they are encouraged by the UGC relaxations on rules on the proceeds of sales, or because they are unable to maintain them.

Salford is an obvious example. It has estimated that because of its 40 per cent cut in money and 30 per cent cut in numbers it must reduce its estate by one third. Departments are being consulted about how much of a reduction they can take, and the UGC is monitoring the exercise. But the problems are huge because the space is full of equipment.

Aston is looking at the possibility of relinquishing five off-campus sites including a student village, a former college of education, a conference centre and some houses, as well as some older buildings on the main campus which were inherited when the site was taken over. Most of these are student residences and some have restrictions on use.

Bradford is withdrawing from commercial development which it has rented in the city centre. By 1984 it will have moved out of the eight floors and rehoused departments in converted main site buildings, such as a converted gymnasium.

But all the proceeds will be needed to pay for the conversions and Bradford even wants a further £750,000 from the UGC for them.

Similarly Bristol may get £750,000 for 26 properties it wants to sell but only to pay for a new arts building. There would be no incentive to sell if the money had to be handed to the Treasury.

Aberdeen has been given UGC approval to sell some undeveloped sites and housing which it is thought will raise a "six figure sum". The money will be used for essential building work, in particular renovation of the medical school. A working party set up to determine the most efficient use of land, buildings, pictures and silver, as well as museum and library holdings decided that disposal of capital assets could not be a major factor in solving financial problems.

Glasgow is to sell two terraced houses, valued in total at £85,000, and this has been approved by the UGC.

Interview, page 9 Leader, back page

Sir Keith plans visit to SSRC

by Paul Flather

Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, is to visit the Social Science Research Council to explain his views on social research and why he believes the council should drop the word science from its title.

The visit, planned for November 4, follows this week's decision that the council is to be "neither dismembered nor liquidated" but it is to receive a £6m cut (about 8 per cent) over the next three years from its proposed share of the Science Vote.

Sir Keith's decision has been met with quiet satisfaction by the SSRC and the academic community. But Mr Michael Posner, the council chairman who has been in a defiant mood over the cut, said it was "severe", but the SSRC will not change its policy of supporting the best research "one lot or iota".

The invitation from Sir Keith to the council to change its name is certain to be keenly debated, even though many council members privately concede that a change is probably a very small price for a reprieve.

Sir Keith believes the word "science" misleads people because it suggests that, like the natural sciences, social research produces testable answers.

Lord Rothschild reacted angrily to Sir Keith's decision.

He said: "Sociologists all over the country, even in Aberdeen, will welcome the originality and intellectual penetration of the Secretary of State's proposal to substitute the old English word *Wissenschaft* for Science in the name of the SSRC.

"Sir Keith's proposal is timely, creative, logical, apposite, epistemologically unassailable and psychologically desirable. The changes affecting the names of the other research councils are equally desirable and imaginative. Only fools could deny that PERCS, BURPS, and TWERPS, are more indicative of the work of these three research councils than their present misnomers."

Mr Posner said he was pretty satisfied by the decision but had had many sleepless nights during the past 12 months. "We do not cut metal, we do not build gadgets, we do not contribute to exports. But every penny we have is well spent on important research.

Further report, page 6 Leader, back page

Training tax scheme proposed

by Karen Gold

A new "training tax" on employers or ratepayers is proposed in the Manpower Services Commission's first major contribution to the development of adult training, to be published for discussion next month.

Various taxation schemes are suggested in the document, as a corollary to its other proposals for setting up a system of loans to replace grants for adults wanting to retrain. This was outlined in *The THES* several weeks ago.

Alternatives include a national tax which would be remitted to those employers involved in adult training, tax without exceptions to fund training grants, or a local training system funded from the rates.

The report has been drawn up by the Training Services Division of the MSC to meet its obligation to the third, adult training objective of the Government's New Training Initiative. It concludes that with little recovery in employment expected, more of Britain's working population will be in training in the future.

To improve prospects for adults, the report recommends that the historic emphasis on training as a youth activity should be changed and age restrictions lifted. Measures to open up adult training opportunities include an increase in the Open Tech budget to enable it to expand into management and supervisory training, a series of short-term closely monitored grants for employers to help them initiate new schemes, and a network of training information and counselling centres.

Under pressure to keep within its allocated budget, the TSD suggests obtaining finance from other Government departments. The report says the proposed information centres could be set up under the MSC's new Community Programme, currently boycotted by local authorities and voluntary organizations.

Discussions should be opened with the Department of Health and Social Security to allow adult trainees on work preparation courses to receive "topped up" benefits.

The fate of the BEd

Whatever the composition of Sir Keith Joseph's final list of teacher training cuts, there is no doubt that the biggest casualty will be the BEd degree. The distribution of places between the universities and the public sector, followed by the identification of colleges and polytechnics to lose training completely, not surprisingly has preoccupied those in higher education. But this is proving a distraction from the fundamental long-term effects on the teacher training system.

That some change is needed is not in dispute, particularly after the unflattering picture of training courses painted in this week's report by Her Majesty's Inspectorate, *The New Teacher in School*. But the conclusions reached in the report and the stated concerns of Sir Keith himself hardly seem to point to the course of action now being contemplated by the Department of Education and Science. This would throw the emphasis of teacher training irrevocably onto the one-year postgraduate course, decimating the BEd for intending secondary teachers to such an extent as to threaten its future viability. Both the Council for National Academic Awards and the National Advisory Body have expressed concern about the future of the degree.

It is understandable that ministers and civil servants should favour the Postgraduate Certificate in Education over the BEd for a number of reasons. Previous experience of misjudging the demand for teachers has shown the planning advantages of the shorter course on the regular occasions when the system is thrown into reverse. The BEd has also been unable to match the popularity of the PGCE or to attract the more academically gifted, who generally prefer to keep their options open during their undergraduate studies.

However, it is at the very least questionable whether the PGCE, for all its advantages, produces better teachers. The HMI report produces no such evidence and the criteria for the cuts given to the NAB smack of academic snobbery rather than a sober assessment of the needs of schools. The proportion of doctorates on the two types of course, for example, surely cannot be considered a significant factor in judging their relative merits.

The Inspectorate's findings, while critical of training courses in general, could be seen as something of a vindication of the BEd. Among primary teachers especially, the HMI found a better mastery of the necessary professional skills from those who had completed the four-year BEd than the alternative routes. There was little to choose between them in the secondary sector and student satisfaction generally appeared higher among BEd graduates than those who had chosen the PGCE course.

Although the academic credentials of those joining the different types of course should not be ignored, neither should the contribution in schools over the years of teachers possessing only O levels, let alone the mediocre A levels often held by BEd students. The move to an all-graduate teaching profession and the additional requirement of O levels in English language and mathematics has narrowed the field of potential teachers dramatically already.

So to go further and rely almost exclusively on the PGCE for secondary teachers, thus endangering the primary equivalent in some colleges where shared lecturing is essential for viability, would be a mistake. While current economic and political circumstances make some cuts in teacher training inevitable, the case for such an inequitable distribution has not been made out. The schools benefit from the variety of backgrounds now available and this balance should be preserved.

Further reliance on the PGCE flies in the face of Sir Keith Joseph's concern for the "bottom 40 per cent" in schools, whose needs are met by well-trained professionals rather than high-flying academics in the main. Indeed, the whole trend in schools towards more vocational work for the upper age groups suggests that the qualities provided by the BEd will be in greater demand than ever if more teenagers remain in education beyond the leaving age. If there are faults in BEd courses, as the Inspectorate suggests and the proposed cuts imply, the answer is to accelerate the structural changes which are already taking place, not to destroy the degree itself. The 30-week PGCE is no substitute for an extended teacher training course for primary schools and must not be allowed to establish a monopoly in the secondary sector either.

The PGCE requires a searching examination, with the likelihood of at least some lengthening before it could be considered for such a leading role.

Some teacher training may be reprieved

by John O'Leary and Patricia Santinelli

At least two institutions are likely to be removed from the Government's list of teacher training closures. Ministers began considering a final draft this week with the prospect of an announcement early next week.

Although the round of consultations will not end until next week, the committees of the National Advisory Body has discussed its ministers alternative recommendations, the victims of the cuts. Religious and regional considerations are weighing heavily in their selection.

It is understood that De la Salle College, Manchester, and the Polytechnic of North London have been proposed for reprieves. The fate of the City of Liverpool College of Higher Education and Bishop Grosseteste College remains uncertain.

Roman Catholic college principals are to meet today to hear the outcome of further discussions between officials at the Catholic Education Council and civil servants. Although the Department of Education and Science continues to reject the concept of "an historic share" for the Catholic colleges, it is almost certain to spare De la Salle.

A reprieve for PNL would follow one of the recommendations of the NAB board. It was anxious that teacher training should not be withdrawn from three London polytechnics, as Sir Keith Joseph had

continued on page 2

Showing Solidarity

Warsaw University was brought to a halt on Monday by a 15-minute silence protesting against the banning of Solidarity. Academics, administrators, and students assembled in the main courtyard of the university, carrying placards and banners with the word *Solidarnosc*, edged with black. Afterwards, 400 lecturers signed a petition protesting against the ban which they plan to present to Dr Jan Szczepanski, one of the ten members of parliament who voted against the new trade union bill which outlawed Solidarity.

AUT takes tough action to save jobs

by David Jobbins

Drivers delivering fuel, food and other essential supplies to universities which threaten to sack academics could face a picket line of lecturers and be asked to turn back.

Continuous strike action, involving 10 per cent of the academic staff at any one time, and picketing usually associated with the tougher end of the trade union movement, are the main planks of a strategy drawn up by the Association of University Teachers to combat compulsory redundancies.

They form part of a programme of "coercive direct action" approved by the AUT executive as a last resort in the fight to save jobs.

"This action will be continued indefinitely until the redundancy notices are withdrawn," a document being circulated to secretaries of local AUT branches says.

But it also assures the union's 34,000 members that legal action is already under way to back up any direct action.

Other sanctions include refusing to assume teaching, research supervision and administration duties from redundant staff, blocking the transfer of students between departments or institutions and disrupting the lucrative summer conference trade. This last form of direct action could be implemented at a time of year when others would be less effective.

Initially, the union plans to warn institutions of the possible consequences once compulsory redundancies have been declared in principle.

Token stoppages would be called to coincide with key university meetings, and could lead to one-day closures of the affected university.

Members are also recommended to "peacably and legally" disrupt a university's administration by, for example, a mass write-in to the finance officer asking for an up-date on pension information or details of university regulations on various routine issues, or by jamming the switchboard with a day-long phone-in.

Other AUT branches would be asked through head office to excommunicate the institution – "to make it a pariah in order to press it to reverse its decision," the document says.

The advice returns to the question of tenure and states firmly it is a protection for staff from academic prejudice.

The AUT document says: "Those academics now being suggested for redundancy by the University Grants Committee or individual universities in response to UGC proposals have been chosen precisely on the basis of academic prejudice.

"Particular subject areas and particular universities have been declared unfashionable and those who work in them are threatened with redundancy, not because of anything related to their personal performance, but solely because the subject they teach and research and the university they work in does not fit UGC prejudices."

Polys may pool their resources

by Felicity Jones

Two London polytechnics are exploring the possibility of sharing resources to secure their future in the face of the National Advisory Body on Local Government Higher Education's 10 per cent expenditure cuts.

In a confidential statement by the provost of City of London Polytechnic, Michael Edwards, and acting rector of the Polytechnic of Central London, Professor Terence Burlin, circulated internally, certain areas were suggested for possible collaboration.

They include housing the schools of law, accountancy and business studies in one building; using each other's accommodation for evening, part-time and evening courses; liaison over modular degrees; mutual support in paramedical courses; closer association of CLP's metallurgy and material engineering with PCL's engineering.

In relation to courses for professions, it is proposed to explore the concentration of courses to overlap in both institutions, collaboration over admissions procedures, student services and administration will also be considered.

Working parties to examine these areas are to be set up.

Mr Michael Edwards, CLP provost, stressed that the link with PCL was under consideration before the NAB exercise was announced since between them they accounted for 40 per cent of part-time and non-advanced courses in inner London.

UMIST: no merger plan

The University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology this week rejected any possibility of a merger with Salford University and decided to retain its present independent status.

The unanimous decision made by the UMIST council came after discussion of five different options: to remain as it is, to become entirely separate from Manchester University, to become simply a faculty of technology in Manchester University, to join a federated University of Manchester, or to merge with Salford.

The council also decided that UMIST should continue to explore and discuss with Manchester University the further development of their 77-year-old relationship. Manchester's vice chancellor, Professor Mark Richmond, attended the council meeting.

Professor Harold Hankins, whom council unanimously approved as acting principal of UMIST said: "There is absolutely no groundswell of support for a merger with Salford. In fact, there is overwhelming support for continuing and developing our valued association with the University of Manchester which began in 1905.

"The cost in human and financial terms in withdrawing from the relationship would be enormous . . . It is a cost-effective arrangement which few other universities enjoy and it is capable of still further development. We have to view that relationship and its achievements and balance it against the nebulous gains of joining two technological universities which have different emphasis."

He also said UMIST was sympathetic to Salford's devastating cuts and praised the way their vice-chancellor and staff were dealing with them.

A spokesman for the Association of University Teachers said they were behind the council decision to encourage collaboration with Manchester, and in welcoming Professor Hankins as acting principal.

Dentists fear unit may close

by Jon Turney
Science correspondent

The future of the Medical Research Council's dental unit in Bristol could be in doubt unless a five-year search for a new director finds a suitable candidate soon.

Leading researchers in the field are concerned at the council's failure to find a replacement for Professor Arthur Darling, who retired in July. There have been three rounds of applications and interviews.

Professor Declan Anderson, also of Bristol, said this week that the five year period of indecision was indefensible, and was harming morale among the unit's staff of 15. "There's a general feeling that the MRC is dragging its feet on this, and will eventually announce the closure of the unit," he said.

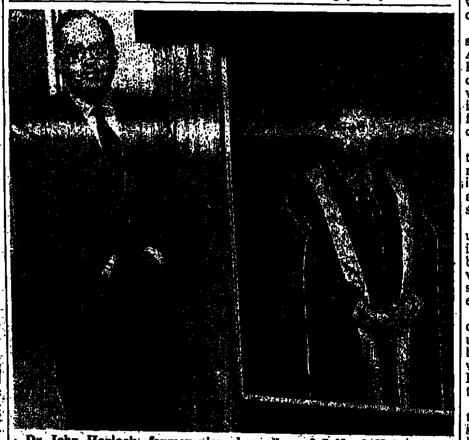
And in a letter recently sent to several newspapers, Professor Anderson, President of the British Division of the International Association for Dental Research, asked what qualities had been found lacking in the candidates considered so far by the council's appointments committee.

"Are there any requirements for this job apart from a good scientific record and potential or proven ability to manage people?" he asked, adding that many of the candidates showed these attributes.

The Dental Research Unit was set up in 1961 under Professor Darling, in line with the MRC's policy of building units round eminent individuals, and is the only establishment studying dental health directly government financed.

The unit's staff are barred from comment on the vacant position under MRC conditions of service, but Professor Anderson's criticisms were supported by Professor John Eastoe of the University of Newcastle upon Tyne.

"The MRC has taken a tremendous time on this, and it seems they may not have any clear idea of what they want", he said. "Their efforts so far haven't been very convincing.



Dr John Horlock; former vice chancellor of Salford University, chairman of council, at the unveiling of his official portrait by local artist Dr Harold Riley.

Management refuses help with research project

Researchers supported by the Social Science Research Council studying a trade union plan aimed at saving jobs were denied official help from the management of a company because it was felt the work would be "unbalanced".

Details of the refusal of Lucas Aerospace to meet researchers studying the Lucas Plan for its worker force to produce "socially useful goods" have surfaced at a time when allegations of bias are high on the SSRC agenda.

In the preface of a book arising out of the research to be published next week, *The Lucas Plan: A new trade unionism in the making?*, authors Hilary Wainwright and David Elliott say they were forced to piece together the management's views, but it was "not as full as we would have wished".

An official SSRC inquiry into the Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick University, which has been accused of being "unfairly biased towards the trades unions", has just started.

The authors of the book, supported by a £12,000 grant under the SSRC's Open Door scheme, wrote to Lucas Aerospace in early 1981 as part of their research study.

Mr Alan Whitney, personnel director of Lucas, wrote back, saying that he understood the research was "specifically aimed for trade union use, rather than a purely academic project" and as such he had no confidence his comments would result "in a balanced presentation being made".

The book sets out to study the background to the plan and the obstacles faced by the Lucas Shop Stewards Combine Committee in having the plan accepted. The SSRC Open Door scheme aims to help non-academics study issues considered important, and the grant was given to Dr Elliott of the Open University technology faculty.

Ms Wainwright, who helped research the study and now works for the Greater London Council, said the week: "The fact that it was a trade union problem from a trade union point does not invalidate the research or make it less rigorous or accurate."

She wrote to Mr Whitney saying her research for management and government would in fact only be useful if it met proper academic standards. She added that it was not intended as propaganda but as analysis, and was as academic as any other research.

Lucas Aerospace said this week the plan had been "totally unofficial" and the company had just exercised its right.

The Lucas Plan: A new trade unionism in the making by Hilary Wainwright and Dave Elliott is published by Allison and Busby at £2.95 next week.

Writers' Fellowships

1983/84

The Arts Council hopes to offer a limited number of grants for the establishment of Writers' Fellowships in England in 1983/84.

The Council would like to hear from educational institutions and other kinds of organisations which are interested in hosting a writer-in-residence.

Further details are available from the Deputy Literature Director, Arts Council of Great Britain, 9 Long Acre, London WC2E 9LH. Tel: 01-379 6597.

Closing date for completed applications: 31 January 1983.

Arts Council OF GREAT BRITAIN

Governors acted in 'barbaric fashion'

The governors of Huddersfield Polytechnic have been ordered to reinstate a senior administrator, after admitting they were wrong to strip him of his duties.

An industrial tribunal in Leeds last week ruled that Peter Fielden, former director of academic support services, should be given back the job from which he resigned last December. He claimed constructive dismissal, saying the polytechnic had appointed someone whose duties were in conflict with his own.

Mr Fielden, who had worked at Huddersfield for four years, had been off work for 10 months.

Although the governors admitted they had been wrong, they unsuccessfully argued that reinstatement would be impracticable because of bad feeling associated with the case.

Mr Fielden was awarded back pay from April when his notice ran out.

On Mr Fielden's behalf the polytechnic's director, Mr Kenneth Durrands, told the tribunal a few governors had been unscrupulous and had treated Mr Fielden in a barbaric fashion.

Teacher training reprieve

continued from front page

proposed in his first list of cuts.

Not all of the board's proposals, which included a reprieve for Leicester Polytechnic and the continuation of teacher education at North Cheshire College under the aegis of Crewe and Alsager College, can be accommodated. But a strong case has been made out for postponing a decision on the City of Liverpool College, largely because of its location.

Some consolation for those institutions which remain on the list has come in the form of an assurance from Mr William Waldegrave, under secretary of higher education, to Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour spokesman on higher education, that the teacher education cuts will not be treated as additional to the contraction already planned. Colleges and polytechnics will be able to take account of any teacher education reduction in their submissions to NAB.

Members of the Government's advisory body on teacher training came near to resigning this week in protest at the Secretary of State for Education ignoring their advice.

It was the first full meeting of the Advisory Committee for the Supply and Education of Teachers since it made its recommendations in May.

The chairman Mr Clifford Hunter has written to Sir Keith Joseph, expressing the committee's strength of feelings and their serious concern at the destruction of the secondary BEd base.

Proposals by one member that further education teachers should be allowed to teach in schools was turned down on the grounds that current regulations rendered this too complicated.

Meanwhile universities have completely vindicated the University Grants Committee's determination that they should be allowed to decide their own subject quotas, rather than be dictated to by the DES.

A straw poll taken at an extraordinary meeting of all university department of education under the aegis of the University Council for the Education of Teachers, reveals that they had managed the exercise within around 60 of the 4,000 places that have been assigned to the university sector.

Lecturers distrust audit moves

by David Jobbins

Attempts by the local government audit inspectorate to tighten up management systems in colleges and polytechnics are being viewed with increasing suspicion by the lecturers' union.

The inspectorate has already produced a report and guidance for district auditors designed to assess the extent to which further education colleges offer value for money.

And accountants Price Waterhouse, acting as agents for the inspectorate, are completing a parallel study at five polytechnics selected for their typical characteristics – Middlesex, Oxford, Brighton, Wales and, currently, Leeds.

The auditors' general approach, that it is possible and desirable to measure efficiently by balancing "inputs" – lecturer hours – against "outputs" – student attendance and examination successes – is almost certain to be challenged by the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education.

Its executive has called for the withdrawal or modification of a draft standardized register designed by the inspectorate to overcome data collection problems, and has set up a working party to examine the other implications for staff conditions and – potentially – salaries. The working group meets for the first time today.

The main anxiety is that the systems favoured by the inspectorate and implied in the draft register call for actual teaching hours to be recorded in a document which would have a direct bearing on the financial management of the polytechnic or college.

Neither academics nor administrators are keen to accept this responsibility.

It contrasts with the approach adopted in the Department of Education-funded Further Education Management Information Service project, which is designed to help the smaller colleges by fitting data already available from staff timetables into a relatively cheap and straightforward microcomputer programme.

Mr Gerald Aldhous, chairman of the Association of College Registrars and Administrators, said: "FEMIS only goes part of the way and the district audit proposals go much further.

"Some of our members have said this is a great idea but asked where the additional staffing is to come from when establishments are, at best, frozen, if not being reduced."

Mr Mike Farmer, a member of the Natfhe executive, claimed the audit inspectorate was venturing into the political arena by saying they were interested in efficiency, while effectiveness was a matter for Her Majesty's Inspectorate. "How can you say what is efficient until you also say what you are doing it all for?" he asked.

The issue was to have been raised at Natfhe's conference in May but was remitted to private session because of the delicate questions involved, but was never reached.

Manchester United goalkeeper Gary Bailey (left) signs on with Professor Harold Hankins, acting principal of the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology for a part-time MSc course in the Civil and Structural Engineering Department. The degree will involve research into the economic viability and implementation of sports complexes, using computer modelling.

Councils blamed for grant cheque delays

by Felicity Jones

Students are accusing some local authorities of deliberately delaying payment of grants in order to ease their own financial problems.

The National Union of Students, which is worried about the hardship which some of its members may face as a result of late payment, has singled out the London borough of Brent and the Liverpool and Inner London authorities for particular criticism.

The union claims that as many as 20 per cent of authorities are pursuing this policy this year. A spokesman said it was part of a general problem, with authorities keen to hold out until the last minute.

"Many authorities tried to put off payment of their student grants until after October 12, after which date they could claim back their rate support grant rebate," he said.

The nearer that date that authorities claim back their grant awards the greater the amount they receive back from central government, which is a powerful disincentive to making early payments.

Brent education authority denied that it had been holding out from making grant awards due to its cash flow position. It did admit that a staff shortage in the award section of the education department due to sickness, holidays and departures meant there had been delays in processing awards.

The ILEA said that out of 19,000 applications for awards more than 17,000 grants had been sent out by the beginning of last week and it had dealt with the grants as soon as applications were received.

However, Mr Neil Kinnock, MP, shadow education secretary, has received a number of letters from students who have been paid late.

He is to write to Sir Keith Joseph, Secretary of State for Education, to ask him to intervene directly to ensure that this does not continue, and says not all cases can be explained away by a dispute about eligibility. A number of cases brought to his attention did not involve any controversy.

Barnet education authority has teething problems with its new hardware. It has put all its awards on to computer this year which has led to problems in programming and to delays in payments.

A department representative said, however, that all the grants would be through very soon and the problems should be sorted out by next year.

Few apply to singles colleges

Undergraduate applications for 1983 to three single sex colleges at Oxford University are well below applications to mixed colleges, renewing speculation they may be forced to go fashionably co-educational.

Confidential figures, circulated to colleges reveal that women's colleges Somerville and St Hilda's have received 183 and 158 applications, and Oriel, open only to men, has 173 applications.

This confirms the general trend of recent years that applicants prefer to put mixed colleges at the top of their preference lists. Apart from Corpus Christi, the smallest college, all had more than 200 applications and five colleges had more than 350 each.

St Hilda's is already preparing to re-open the debate about going mixed.

Dr Glenn Black, admissions tutor at Oriel, said that a large drop in applications had been expected after last year's increase following the introduction of a new matriculation offer scheme, giving places on the minimum qualification of two Es at A level.

Application swings are quite common. This year the biggest increases are at Pembroke (111), St Catharine's (90), Wadham (75) and Jesus (50). The colleges with the highest number of applications are: Hertford (376), Balliol (360), Jesus (368), Wadham (358) and Pembroke (354).

Over all applications are up per cent up on last year, with men up 73 to a total of 4,487 and women up 235 to a total of 3,214.

New awards lobby wins

Labour councillors in Bedfordshire won a substantial victory this week when, at a full meeting, the County Council voted to make new discretionary awards for 1982–83. The council had earlier decided to abandon the awards to save some £350,000.

The Conservative-led council's change of heart came after it was discovered during a review of expenditure earlier this month that nearly £1m of the 1981–82 budget had not been spent.

Following this, Labour councillors decided with the support of Liberals to press for the reinstatement of the awards without which some 500 young people stood to lose their further education places.

The council's decision to restore only some £240,000 to fund new discretionary awards is because the number of young people seeking these has fallen to 400. Some have gone on courses which attract mandatory awards and others have gone into employment.

East Sussex County Council's education committee decided this week to turn down a motion to restore cuts of 20 per cent in discretionary awards but agreed to increase funding for minor awards by some £100,000.

The motion by a group of councillors was intended to press for the restoration of some £300,000 but the education committee decided the council would allow £100,000 for the increase in the provision of minor awards.

Laser project gets £½m from SERC

Two Scottish universities are to collaborate with Science and Engineering Research Council laboratories on a project to design and build a new high-power laser.

Glasgow and Heriot-Watt universities will receive SERC grants totalling over £500,000 for the project, which centres on the linear accelerator in Glasgow University's Kelvin laboratory.

The accelerator will be combined with an oscillating magnet developed in the council's Daresbury laboratories to construct a tunable free electron laser, which produces very intense, short pulses of light over a wide range of frequencies.

The project will enable the Glasgow accelerator, whose role in nuclear physics research has been usurped by more powerful machines, to contribute to studies in laser chemistry and the development of semiconductor switches controlled by light instead of electricity.

The Scottish team, led by Professor Desmond Smith of Heriot-Watt University, should be the first to build a fully tunable free electron laser.

The machine will operate by sending a beam of electrons moving at near the speed of light into the field from a "wiggler" magnet. Interaction between the charged electrons and the magnetic field causes the particles to emit radiation, at a wavelength which depends on the speed of the electrons.

In this way, adjusting the energy of the electrons projected from the accelerator serves to tune the device so that laser light of the required wavelength is produced.

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Anti-VAT strategy in disarray

by Karen Gold

Joint ideas but not a joint approach on fending off the value added tax inspectors have been agreed by the main groups involved in local authority adult education.

Representatives of six groups who have been meeting over recent months failed to reach agreement on whether campaigning for a change in VAT legislation or a change of interpretation by the inspectorate would defend their classes more effectively.

Instead, the two largest bodies – the Association of County Councils and the Association of Metropolitan Authorities – will continue discussions with Customs and Excise on interpretation while the others, the National Institute of Adult Education, the Advisory Council, the Society of Education Officers and the Welsh Joint Education Committee, will pursue their own campaigns.

But all the organizations are to adopt those arguments against the inspectorate's attempts to charge VAT on adult education classes which they have agreed, and which will soon be sent in a paper to Customs and Excise.

The paper rejects VAT inspectors' attempts to divide education and leisure, the latter being taxable, by insisting that the educational value of a class lies not in the subject but in two features: a significant teaching contribution and an element of individual learning and development.

Such a definition would exclude a handful of classes which were largely opportunities for club members to meet, but would put taught classes in improving sporting or arts skills definitely within the definition of educational.

The paper is likely to dismiss attempts to relate definitions of education to what is taught in schools and universities, saying the area covered by both sectors is so immense as to be unworkable.

Waldegrave warns on research

by Olga Wojtas
Scottish Correspondent

The first explicit ministerial warning that some universities might have to give up research has come in a speech by Mr William Waldegrave, Under-Secretary for Higher Education.

Mr Waldegrave, giving a lecture entitled "Universities: The next 100 years" at Dundee University, said: "There is a very unfortunate ideology in Britain, 'me tooism', where if anybody does anything in an institution of higher education, every one has to do it. We tend to be drifting quite fast towards a single stereotype, but who knows whether the stereotype is right?"

Governments had at various times put out "some rather misleading signals" such as turning colleges of advanced technology into universities because of their excellence "and putting them in popular esteem on a hierarchical ladder which led to the purest of pure old universities".

He added: "I wonder if it isn't crazy to say we can have 44 universities all trying to teach and do research."

Plurality was the strength of United States higher education, Mr Waldegrave said, but he rejected central planning of a system as had happened in California.

"That seems to me unsatisfactory because institutions do change. I want to figure out ways whereby institutions themselves can be encouraged to define separate roles."

Mr Waldegrave said that when people looked back in a hundred years they would find it odd that Britain had held for so long to "front-end loading" of higher education, with all resources going to the 18-plus age group.

"I suspect it will be meaningless to make distinction between education and continuing education."

A credit transfer system would enable people to go in and out of courses, although he recognized this had "quite alarming implications for the English view of proceeding to rather short intensive efficient three-year honours degrees".

The present grants system could not support students' needs, and would have to be supplemented or replaced if students were to have more flexibility in taking courses.

The question of student loans was an ideological battle of great intensity, although Britain spent a very much larger part of its higher education budget on student grants than any other country in Europe, or the United States. Mr Waldegrave suggested that a loans system was quite likely to be introduced by a government of the left.

"It's very frustrating to have to limit the number of students because of an inability to spread money around", he said.

Poly's answer to UCCA is narrowed to three choices

The working group examining the feasibility of an admissions system for the polytechnics has narrowed the choice down to three options.

The group, which was set up in June, intends to meet for two days at the end of this month at Portsmouth Polytechnic, to discuss in detail the merits of each proposal. Then it hopes to put recommendations to a full meeting of the Committee of Directors of Polytechnics at end of the year.

The options are:

- To establish a completely new admissions system, separate from existing agencies;
- To expand or work in collaboration with either of the specialized clearing houses for teacher training or art and design. This possibility has been examined but is the least likely to be favoured.
- To integrate with the Universities Central Council on Admissions, to a lesser or greater degree. A joint system, though desirable, might be difficult but a parallel system for the polytechnics using some of the UCCA facilities is thought to be more practicable.

The group found very helpful a recent visit by two senior officials from UCCA who talked about the mechanics of their system, and discussed the possibilities of a joint programme with shared computer facilities.

Still to be thrashed out are questions of detail such as will students, as in UCCA, be limited to five choices of courses (currently there are no limits to numbers of applications), how and when should students apply, and who should pay for the system.

In the UCCA system, applications pay a fee and the institutions pay three times the same amount.

It is likely that any system, if approved, will be ready for students applying in the autumn of 1984 for 1985 entry.

Beating an age old disadvantage

Mrs Martha Gordon is four times the age of most of her fellow students at Lancaster University. But she left her younger colleagues standing in a competition for the outstanding first-year undergraduates.

Her university career began at 69 when she embarked on a degree in French at the University of Western Australia while visiting her daughter. Her husband had died and she decided to take a positive attitude.

On her return to Britain she enrolled at Lancaster to study archaeology with the aid of an Australian pension of £40 per week, supplemented by a private income of £426 a year. She is not eligible for a British pension.

Now, at 75, she has taken one of the three prizes awarded annually to first-year students at Lancaster. "I feel sure that lots more retired people could study at university, funding themselves," she said.

Robots told to win £3000

Six teams of technician engineering students could each win £5,000 to build voice-controlled robots of their own design for a competition just announced by the British Computer Society.

The competition, sponsored by Honeywell Ltd and other companies, is open to technicians following Technician Education Council Higher Certificate or Higher Diploma courses in colleges and polytechnics. In the first stage, teams of up to eight members can submit designs for a voice-controlled industrial robot before the new year.

Fifty colleges have already asked for copies of the rules, and the six most promising designs, chosen by a panel chaired by Sir Henry Chilver of Cranfield Institute of Technology, will be built in the colleges and compete for the overall prize in a demonstration final in Milton Keynes next July.

Mr Peter Cummings of the BCS said last week that the competition, one of the events marking the society's silver jubilee, was devised to take account of the shortage of technicians with a mastery of new technologies. The project specified would stimulate thought about the man-machine interface, one of the key areas for industrial development in the next few years.

And the tight timetable would give competitors a taste of industrial design schedules, he suggested.

The competition rules specify that the robot should be capable of selecting a number of parts, pattern laying and stacking, and must be reprogrammable through voice control.

This last is the most difficult condition to meet, and there may well be commercial interest in any possibly successful entries. However, Mr Graham Thorne of Honeywell said that the designs would remain the property of the teams.

Left group loses out in Natfhe

by David Jobbins

The rise and fall of political groupings within the college lecturers' union has reached new intensity this week.

As the Trotskyite College Rank and File group went into its second term of voluntary liquidation, the union's Broad Left laid its plans for an informal network less dependent on the executive.

For some years the College Rank and File organization has been the focus of extreme left activity within the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education. Its influence at the union's conference over the issues of salaries policy has outweighed its numerical strength.

Now the Socialist Workers Party, as part of its industrial strategy, has decided to withdraw from rank and file organizations, and after a prolonged and bitter internal debate Natfhe's 150 or so SWP members have agreed to wind up their own version.

Falling attendances and political demoralization of the extreme left are blamed. Only twelve people attended the annual meeting this year and just six turned up to the last London meeting.

A special general meeting decided last weekend that the organization should be suspended until political and industrial omens are more propitious.

But the decision means the end of the College Rank and File magazine, which despite a big circulation problem sells only 630 copies at a cost of £35 per edition, and that no Rank and File candidate will contest this year's vice presidential elections.

Its leaders blame a rightward drift in the union. "Rank and File operates best as a concept when people are rarring to go and the executive is holding back," one leading member said. "Now rather than the membership taking up the cudgels, we have a situation where the executive is exhorting people to do things and the membership is not so keen."

Earlier this year CRF faced debts amounting to over £700 but these were largely cleared before the decision to suspend the organization. National secretary, Ms Sandra Peaston and magazine editor, Mr Martin Roiser, remain "custodians" of the organization and its network of sympathizers.

Meanwhile, the union's Broad Left is organizing a conference to gauge support for underpinning of its executive position. Every effort is being made to emphasize the grass-roots nature of the proposed organization.

Nobel for Klug

Dr Aaron Klug has added to the remarkable tally of Nobel awards to workers at the Medical Research Council's Laboratory of Molecular Biology in Cambridge by taking the 1982 prize for chemistry.

Dr Klug's award, for structural studies of viral protein and nucleic acids, brings the unit's total to seven, including the two separate Nobels held by Dr Fred Sanger.

Dr Klug came to Britain from South Africa in 1949, and has worked in Cambridge ever since.

Overseas continued

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Intending applicants should obtain the information pack from the Secretary, Academic Staffing Office, Chichester House, 278 King Georges Avenue, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa, with whom applications should be lodged not later than 31 December 1982. WTS

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Intending applicants should obtain information sheet relating to conditions of service from the Secretary of the Association of Universities of the South African Cities, Office Curriculum Vitae, Curriculum Vitae, Chichester House, 278 King Georges Avenue, Johannesburg 2001, South Africa, with whom applications should be lodged by 31 December 1982.

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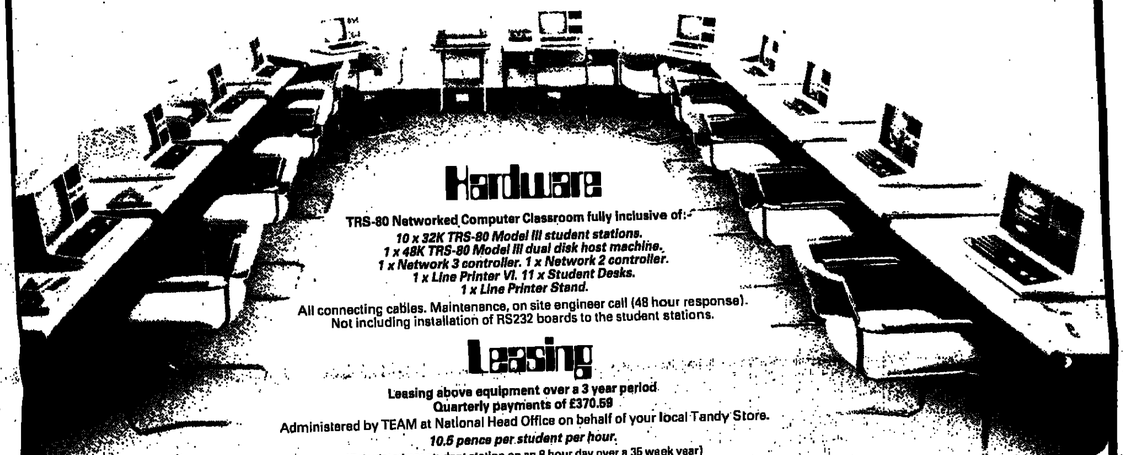

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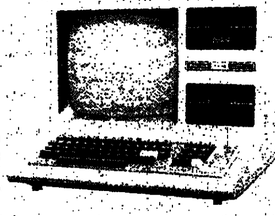

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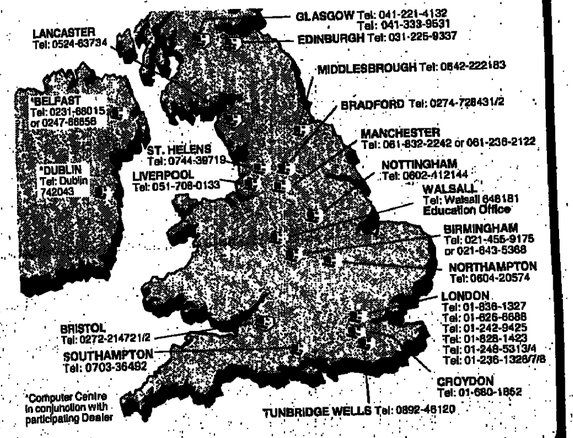

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News in brief

Physicians build £4.5m precinct

The Royal College of Physicians is to spend £4.5m on a medical precinct next to its headquarters near Regent's Park in London.

The precinct, which should be finished in two years' time, will take in 11 houses in St Andrew's Place. When converted and restored, they will provide extra space for the college's research programme, and for holding examinations and postgraduate training for doctors, as well as new headquarters for the faculties of community medicine and occupational medicine.

Over £3m of the capital sum has already been raised, with £500,000 coming from fellows and members of the college, and work will begin in November. The other £1.5m will be raised when the project is under way.

V-c retires early

Professor Paul Matthews, 62, vice-chancellor of Bath University since 1976, is to retire next August. He said: "I believe the coming year, in which the university is enjoying a period of relatively favourable financial stability, provides an ideal opportunity for a new appointment."

Thai trainers

Sheffield City Polytechnic has won a contract worth more than £250,000 with the Thai Government to train educators of head teachers and administrators there. The project was sub-contracted out by the British Council, which was asked to advise on the setting up of the training scheme.

The deal, which will benefit a quarter of a million head teachers and administrators, had been made possible by a grant from the International Development Association arm of the World Bank to Bangkok's new Centre for Educational Administration for the development of their educational training. Four groups of eight educators will come to Sheffield for four months.

Students sensored

City University has installed an electronic security system costing £4,000 to restrict access to its largest hall of residence to the 800 student residents. Each has been issued with a "valid user card" which has to be accepted by a sensor at the entrance before access is allowed.

PICKUP begins

The first in the Government's series of PICKUP – Professional, Industrial and Commercial Updating – workshops took place this week at Chalfont St Giles, with participants from Oxfordshire, Buckinghamshire, Hertfordshire, Bedfordshire and Berkshire discussing cooperative updating projects between industry and higher and further education.

Enrolments up

Enrolments of new overseas students are up by nearly 19 per cent on last year at the University of Manchester Institute of Science and Technology, UMIST, which charges the minimum fees recommended by the UGC, expects to have some 20 per cent of its overall student body from abroad this year.

Minority health

Health services for ethnic minorities are the subject of a new training and resources project for health workers launched by the National Extension College and the Health Education Council. The project, based at the Institute of Community Studies, London, will consider the health problems and services provided for the black community.

CND dissent

Students at Bristol University have voted against CND policies and in favour of multilateralism in what is claimed to be the first vote by a general meeting there against unilateralism for several years. The decision has to be ratified by the union council before policy is changed.

Engineers may lose scholarship funds

by Jon Turney
Science Correspondent

Money troubles threaten two important scholarship programmes for engineering students. The national engineering scholarship scheme has been rescued by the Treasury for the second year in succession, but it will make only a third of the intended number of awards. And the engineering practice scholarships run by the Engineering Industry Training Board may cease after a change in funding by the Manpower Services Commission.

The national engineering scholarships scheme, set up four years ago, was designed to give 500 outstanding students £500 a year on top of their normal grants to encourage them to do engineering.

The arrangement for the £750,000 annual budget to be shared equally between engineering employers and the Department of Education and Science broke down last year. The Treasury then had to make up a £110,000 deficit in the employers' contribution.

This year, the intake was to be cut to 300 and Sir Peter Matthews of the Engineering Employers' Federation launched an appeal in June to try to raise enough money.

But industrial contributions again proved inadequate, and the Treasury has had to step in, with interviews for this year's awards already under way.

The problem with the engineering practice scholarships scheme, which dates from 1970, lies in a shift in MSC policy. The awards go to sandwich course students without commercial sponsorship and cover training and subsistence for a six-month industrial placement.

Until now, the MSC paid the full cost, but it can now only contribute the subsistence allowance, leaving the Engineering Industry Training Board to find the training costs paid to the centre.

Like the national scholarship, the engineering practice scheme has backing for this year, as the EITB has agreed to provide £350,000 for 300 places. But the future of both schemes must now be in doubt unless alternative funds can be found.

The engineering scholarships programme has already been cut back this year, and Mr Oscar Hahn, chairman of the employers' federation's fundraising committee, said last week there were unlikely to be more than a hundred awards. He stressed, however, that industry had still raised a substantial sum towards the total, and the committee would try to raise the full amount for next year.

A DES official said it was very unlikely the department would agree to continue the extra funding for the national scholarships scheme, as this would go against the original intention of the programme, which was designed around one-to-one funding.

Similarly, the EITB has made clear that the allocation of money from its reserves to support the engineering practice scholarships next year is unlikely to be feasible.

Worcester Cathedral was the setting for the award of the first Council for National Academic Awards Master of Education degrees last week. Seven graduate teachers from Worcester College of Higher Education, the first college in the country to receive validation for such an award, were granted an MEd degree. During the ceremony Miss Beryl Sowerbutts, registrar for the Central Register and Clearing House and Graduate Teacher Training Registry, received an honorary fellowship of the college.

Paul Flather reports on the reaction of Sir Keith Joseph to Lord Rothschild's SSRC review

A victory for the academic community

A mood of quiet satisfaction this week characterized the London headquarters of the Social Science Research Council, basking in the relief of having won its war after an arduous, painful, twelve-month campaign.

The council will almost certainly have to make significant changes in the way it distributes its postgraduate awards, and will perhaps have to change its title, but it knows it will continue to receive public funding, and that the Government plans no further special inquiries.

The SSRC's reprieve was announced in a letter from Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, sent to Mr Michael Posner, the council chairman, last Thursday, and released this week in answer to a parliamentary question.

The sting in the letter was a demand for the SSRC to cut £6m from the budgets drawn up by the Advisory Board for the Research Councils over the next three years "as quickly as possible consistent with orderly adjustment", Sir Keith said.

This amounts to an 8 per cent cut on the ABRC recommendations for the SSRC budget to rise from £20.9m this year to £25.5m in 1985–86, a total of £73.3m over three years. Lord Rothschild in his inquiry into SSRC recommended level funding for three years. The council now faces a real cut of 3 to 4 per cent.

The council was suggesting this week it would probably "spread the misery" between postgraduate training and research grants as with the £1.1m cut imposed last Christmas by Sir Keith. But the matter will certainly be keenly debated, with some academics arguing that 780 postgraduate starts this year is too few.

In the coming year the council will spent about £8.8m on postgraduate training, and some £5m on research grants. Another area of cuts may be administration, which accounts for £2.4m of the budget. A change of location is still under review.

The important news is Sir Keith's declaration affirmed in a briefing at the Ministry this week that "he had no thought at all" to remove the SSRC from the umbrella of the ABRC, and its funding from the science vote allocation. The council accounts for 4.4 per cent of the £464m total science budget.

Sir Keith justified the £6m cut on two grounds – on the principle that he favours the natural sciences, and on the natural merits of the natural sciences where funds are, "more effectively spent" and results "more tangible" than social studies.

He explained the extra cut had to be put into perspective as the SSRC only spent between 12 and 20 per cent of total public funding of social research.

The switch in funds is made all the more stark because Sir Keith wants the £6m to pay for "new blood" in the natural sciences, undoubtedly an area of great need. "If carefully directed to the most able young researchers, quite modest amounts of money will have significant effect," he said.

The proposed change in title to "more accurately reflect the range of studies and methods" embraced by the SSRC, more specifically dropping the word "science" is already provoking intense debate on the council.

Sir Keith strongly believes the word "science" is misleading and inappropriate when applied to social studies, and indeed he himself never once used the offending word. Science is something that can be subject to experiment, that can be definitely disproved, that is open to falsifiability, Sir Keith said.

In science people believe that if you spend enough on social research you will get definite answers, but this did not occur in social studies. He stressed that housing, crime, and race relations, were "huge and important" problems. "But there is no evidence of a link between research and policy success."

He said he had no intention to legislate, but he wanted to stimulate a debate.

Sir Keith also wants the SSRC to move away from a postgraduate awards system based on quotas towards a pool system with more emphasis on quality.

He dodged questions about whether he had at some stage intended to abolish the council.

He avoided any suggestions that he favoured policy-oriented research or disliked left-wing research.

In his letter of reply Mr Posner said the council would record its quiet satisfaction that a line had been drawn after 12 months of uncertainty, although he much regretted the further cuts in funds.

Mr Posner said there had been times in the past months, as Sir Keith's views changed one way and another, that the council might be closed, and be banished "to a Siberian saltmine". He was very grateful to Lord Rothschild's strong recommendation that to abolish the SSRC would be "an act of intellectual vandalism".

Mr Posner is now keen to leave the council ship-shape before he departs into next year. The decision, in spite of the cut, is seen as a victory for the academic community over Sir Keith, made possible by deft playing of a strong hand dealt by Lord Rothschild and the ABRC.

New training board snubs YOP officials

by Patricia Santinelli

Two members of the body which oversees the Youth Opportunities Programme have not been picked to serve on the New Youth Training Board.

Membership of the new board, a source of dissension for some time, was officially announced this week. And none of the members of the Special Programmes Board has been chosen.

They are Ms Clare Short, director of Youthaid, Ms Pat White, president of the Institute of Careers Officers. Places have gone instead to Mr D. O'Rourke, chairman of the British Youth Council, Mr D. R. Mills, principal careers officer of Cheshire and Councillor M. R. Thwaites, deputy chairman of the AMA.

The Manpower Services Commission insists that this was not its decision but that of the body responsible for nominating appointees. The commission says that in at least two cases the appointments were a result of internal dissension.

Other nominees follow the usual tradition and broadly represent the TUC, CBI, Association of County Councils, the education service, and voluntary organizations.

Issues soon to be discussed are how to achieve equal opportunities for youngsters of both sexes and ethnic origins; whether employers should recruit trainees directly or go through placing agencies; what steps should be taken to help youngsters with special needs and how to set the high standards required.

More help on the way for unqualified mature students

A revised scheme to help mature students take up university places was announced this week by the Joint Matriculation Board, after it expressed concern about declining opportunities for older candidates.

The JMB, which regulates general entrance examination requirements for the universities of Manchester, Liverpool, Leeds, Sheffield and Birmingham, has launched a new version of its JMB Mature Entry Scheme which allows older students without the necessary qualifications to enter university.

It was concerned about a slight fall in the number of applications. In 1982 over 2,500 inquiries were made by people interested in a similar JMB scheme but only a small proportion pursued the matter and 276 finally took up a place at one of the universities. Some 280 had taken up places in 1981 out of 2,000 original inquiries.

A spokesman said: "The fact that the number of successful entrants was less in 1982 than the year before, when there were fewer inquiries, is a cause of great concern to the board.

Under the JMB scheme each candidate is treated as a special case and a personal package of interviews and tests is tailored to meet individual needs. "The main concern of the selectors is to make sure that the would-be student has the ability to follow a university course with a reasonable chance of getting a degree at the end of it," the spokesman said.

Further information about the scheme can be obtained from the JMB, Manchester, M15 6BU.

Retiring Natfhe official to keep NAB post

Dr Peter Knight, the past president of the college lecturers' union, intends to remain on the National Advisory Body for his full three-year term although he is to retire from the union's executive next spring.

"I am appointed by the Secretary of State on the nomination of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education," said Dr Knight, who is to become deputy director of Preston Polytechnic.

"Normal practice in the association is that people conclude their term of office, and this is not conditional on being a member of the executive."

There is no guarantee that Dr Knight would be replaced if he resigned.

He sees no reason for his closer identification with management as a deputy director militating against remaining on the NAB. "On the Oakes committee I was Natfhe's most junior representative – with three principals. It is not the association's practice to discriminate between members on the basis of the posts they hold."

North American news

Universities caught in the crossfire

Peter David reports from Toronto on growing rancour between Ottawa and the provinces

A conference on Canadian higher education, organized by the education ministers of the 10 provinces, opened here this week without a single federal minister in attendance.

The secretary of state – the nearest thing Canada has to a national education minister – bluntly refused an invitation to the conference on the grounds that the provinces had deliberately excluded the federal Government from its planning and organization.

For Canada's financially beleaguered universities, the snub and counter-snub were an ominous sign of an ever-widening breach between Ottawa and the provinces over the control of higher education.

Meeting in Fredericton three weeks ago, the Association of Universities and Colleges of Canada issued a nervous communiqué urging to two levels of government not to allow their political differences to damage the universities.

But despite the pleas of the universities, Ottawa and the provinces are beginning to square off for a bruising political brawl in which higher education seems likely to become the first casualty.

The fight over the universities is part of a volatile constitutional struggle which has haunted Canadian politics since the election of a separatist government in Quebec and a referendum there on cession five years ago.

After that experience, and facing new cessionist movements in the western provinces, Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Prime Minister, is determined to make Canada's citizens more aware of the benefits they receive from the federal purse.

Unfortunately for the universities, they are seen in Ottawa as a prime example of a public service which the federal Government backs without getting any credit or control in return.

Since 1977, Ottawa has been making massive transfer payments to the provinces through a system of "established programme financing" (EPT) – block grants ostensibly earmarked for health and higher education but which the provinces are free to spend as they please. Last July, Mr Gerald Reagan, then Secretary of State, told the provincial Council of Ministers of Education, Canada (CMEC) that he intended to renegotiate the old EPF system.

Gerald Regan: sought a say in planning higher education

He said the federal Government wanted in future to get more in return for the $C3,500m (about £1,600m) a year it gave the provinces for post-secondary education. In particular, Ottawa wanted a say in planning so it could ensure that higher education achieved federally defined national objectives as well as goals set by the provinces.

But Mr Regan did not say how the fiscal arrangement would be changed. Instead, he invited the CMEC to open talks with him to find a compromise which would satisfy Ottawa's objectives while recognizing that the provinces were constitutionally responsible for education.

Undaunted by the fact that the federal Goverment pays more than half the cost of Canada's universites, the provincial ministers responded last month with a letter refusing to countenance any significant federal role in higher education planning.

"We cannot emphasize too strongly, that, since education is a constitutional responsibility of the provinces, the objectives must be determined at a provincial level", the letter says.

The letter from the education ministers also said that they would not consider negotiating any changes in the EPF system: if Ottawa wanted to change its fiscal arrangements with the provinces it would have to deal with the individual provincial prime ministers and ministers of finance.

Canada's university presidents have privately voiced dismay at the intransigent tones of the provinces' letter. They fear that by snubbing Mr Regan's overture the CMEC has made the EPF highly vulnerable to sweeping cuts in federal spending.

In July when Mr Regan first unveiled Ottawa's demands for a bigger say in higher education, he gave a warning that the federal Government's generosity would be linked to the amount of cooperation it received from the provinces.

Since then, the country's financial outlook has worsened as the deficit and levels of unemployment have soared. At the same time, Mr Regan has lost his responsibility for education in a Cabinet reshuffle. Unlike Mr Regan, Mr Serge Joyal, his successor, is not a member of Mr Trudeau's inner Cabinet.

The deteriorating relations between Ottawa and the provinces, combined with the Cabinet changes, have left the universities jittery. The Government is known to be scouring the federal budget for money to divert to a new job creation programme.

For higher education, the question now is not whether the EPF will be cut to raise money for the new programme but how great the damage will be. At the very least, this year's increase in The EPF is expected to be held to around 6 per cent.

Beyond the spectre of immediate cuts, remains the question of what the federal Government will do to the entire EPF system in the light of the refusal of the CMEC to negotiate reforms.

Officials in the Secretary of State's department are urging Mr Joyal to regard the CMEC's letter as merely a tough opening position likely to be softened once talks get under way.

But the federal Government may nevertheless be provoked into a radical change in the way it pays for higher education: by using direct grants to universities to bypass the provinces, or even introducing an education voucher scheme. Both schemes would touch off a furious constitutional battle.

University leaders know that in any showdown the interests of the universities would be swamped by the political interests of each side.

So far, however, the two levels of government have had only uncomplimentary things to say about each other's role in higher education.

Sunshine culture

Educators, diplomats and energy experts gathered at Georgetown University in Washington DC recently, to Dedicate the Edward Bunn, S.J. Intercultural Centre, the world's largest solar electric-roofed building. (Deborah Kassouf writes). The picture shows the centre's Galleria.

When photovoltaic modules are attached to the roof of the six-storey structure late next year, experts expect the solar energy produced will power almost the entire $36 (£21m) building.

The centre commemorates Father Edward Bunn, president of the university from 1952 to 1964 and Georgetown's first chancellor until his death in 1972. It now houses all the university's teaching programmes in comparative and regional studies, international affairs and diplomacy, and foreign languages.

In addition, the building is the home for two national resource centres, established as a result of grants from the United States Department of Education. The are the National Resource Centre for Intercultural Awareness, offering a two year Intercultural studies programme, and the National Resource Centre for Interpretation and Translation.

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Overseas news

Social science 'being neglected'

from David Dickson
PARIS

The social sciences in France are suffering from political neglect, financial undernourishment, and a general lack of democracy in the academic community, according to a report presented last week to the French minister for research and industry, M Jean-Pierre Chevenément.

The report was commissioned earlier this year by M Chevenément from Dr Maurice Godelier, director of studies at the Ecole des Hautes Etudes et Sciences Sociales in Paris. Its preparation followed a national colloquium on the Government's research policies, at which, among the many topics considered, widespread concern was expressed about the current state of the social science community.

France's Socialist Government is unlikely to need much convincing about the report's conclusions. M Chevenément himself is a social scientist by training, and has already secured a substantial increase in support for social science research within the budget of the national centre for scientific research (CNRS), officially planned to grow overall by more than 17 per cent in the current year.

However the Government obviously hopes that the report will help to legitimize the extra research effort which it is now supporting or is intending to support in the near future, and to convince sceptics that the current official enthusiasm for the social sciences is based as much on the self perceived needs of the academic community as on any ideological convictions about their social value.

The Godelier report points out that there was a steady decline in official support for the social sciences in France during the 1970s, particularly towards the end of the decade when CNRS funding fell by 25.8 per cent between 1976 and 1980.

Godelier suggests there was a large political component in this reduction. For example, he said, although the student revolts of May 1968 provided an important intellectual stimulus by rejecting new ideas and currents of thought, the involvement of social science students and faculty members in these events made such disciplines appear instruments of political subversion and social confrontation. "Ever since, the *ancien régime* has made a particularly strong effort to neutralize and re-orientate them."

The report itself contains surveys of particular fields which, as Godelier points out, illustrate that France is still at the forefront of many important social sciences, for example modern history, anthropology, linguistics, and certain areas of economics and sociology.

At the same time, however, there are other areas in which he suggests France is well behind other western nations. One of these, says Godelier, is the field of womens studies. Despite the fact that such research is flourishing in other countries – particularly England and the United States – and that some research on women is carried out in France, it is practically unrecognized by official academic institutions. "Indeed, some universities would almost ridicule the idea of carrying out such research," Godelier said last week.

Based on widespread consultation with the academic community, government departments, trade unions and other social groups, Godelier has presented a list of eight proposals to Chevenément and the Government as the basis of a new policy for the social sciences. The first of these is to "reconstruct the infrastructure of research", which would include increased support for libraries, professional publications, field work, and professional appointments.

The second proposal is to increase the amount of democracy in the social science community, a popular theme of the Government in all fields of research. "Democracy is not a luxury, but a means of expanding research," says Godelier, proposing in particular that all those involved in research – including technicians and laboratory assistants – be allowed to share the overall responsibility for the health and direction of research programmes.

Other recommendations include efforts to stimulate greater innovation in research methods, to make "more simple, more flexible, no more rigorous" the administrative and financial management of research institutions, and to find new ways of opening the social science community to the needs and expectations of different social groups, such as the trade unions and industrial companies.

Some of these proposals have already been put into effect by the Government. For example, the French parliament passed a new research law in the summer which, in addition to providing for a substantial and sustained increase in financial support for all areas of science, also requires greater democratization of the CNRS along the lines proposed by Godelier.

Other changes are in the pipeline. CNRS, for example, is soon expected, in line with another of Godelier's recommendations, to announce that it is merging its two current sectors of human sciences and social sciences into a single directorate. It is also considering proposals in the report to reorganize the fine structure of the national committees which oversee CNRS research policy, for example by creating new sections for the study of languages, of law and of politics.

Within the French academic community, speculation is running high over who the scientific director of the new combined directorate is likely to be. Last year, Chevenément provoked the resignation of the CNRS director general and its president when he announced his intention – without seeking the advice of either – of appointing Godelier, politically identified with Chevenément on the left wing of the Socialist party, as the scientific director of the social sciences division.

The new director is expected to be announced within a few weeks. Godelier is still tipped as one of the front runners, and the Government may be hoping that the 500-page report which has now landed on the minister's desk and on public bookstands will help to neutralize any potential opposition either to his academic status – Godelier is not a university professor – or to his political commitments.

Academics' union barred

from Geoff Masiel
MELBOURNE

The role of Australian universities was too remote from industry for academic and administrative employees of the institutions to form a federal union, according to a judgment of the Australian High Court.

In a four-nil decision, the court refused to grant a writ of mandamus commanding the industrial registrar to rehear an application for registration by the Association of Australian University Staff. The association – a body set up by the Federation of Australian University Staff Associations – had previously sought registration as an organization of employees under the conciliation and arbitration legislation.

The federation needed registration to enable it to engage in salary award and conditions negotiations. At present, all academic salaries tribunal makes recommendations to the federal Government on what academic salary levels should be but it is not empowered to take account of changes in the workload or conditions of work of academics.

Although the commonwealth Government has just accepted a recommendation by the tribunal for a 7 per cent salary increase for academics – the Federation of University Staff Associations would prefer to go before a tribunal whose decisions would be automatically accepted by the Government.

In its judgment, the High Court held that the association had failed to show that the functions performed by its members or by universities were "ancillary or incidental to" industry, and thus within the existing conciliation and arbitration power.

Hard-working Germans explode a few myths

from James Hutchinson
BONN

The West German federal ministry of education claims that the country's universities are more efficient and German students more hard-working than they are usually given credit for. Some 90 per cent of students obtain degrees, says the ministry, although it was true that many of them changed or interrupted their courses.

This drop-out rate of around 10 per cent was quite small in comparison with other countries. Ministry officials said the results of their analysis refuted the recent charge of Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, director of the London School of Economics, that German universities were far less efficient than British or French ones.

For instance, there was no basis, said the ministry, for the accusation that more and more German students were failing final examinations because they had taken courses for which they were unsuited. In fact the average failure rate was 7.5 per cent – and that, too, stood comparison with other countries.

Admittedly, there were high failure rates in certain subjects. Some 25 per cent of candidates failed the first state examination in law, and 17 per cent in economics. But only 6 per cent of medical students were unsuccessful, and a mere 3 per cent of psychology students.

Women have a better record than men. One in ten male students fails his finals, but only 7 per cent of women do not pass theirs. The proportion of students who change their courses rose from 14 per cent in 1974 to 18 per cent in 1979.

EEC executives at school in Japan

A group of business executives from Europe is in Japan as part of a long term plan to break down misunderstanding and distrust.

The 29 are on an executive training programme started by the European Community in 1979. The involvement of leading European companies in the programme indicates a growing awareness of the importance of the Japanese market, said a spokesman for the delegation.

"The cumulative effect of successive generations of participants in the programme will create firm and lasting ties between European and Japanese industry."

Since the programme began three groups of trainees, totalling over 70 people, have been to Japan. The programme consists of 12 months intensive language training, followed by six months in-house training in a Japanese company. Throughout the 18 months the participants also have seminars and factory visits.

The present group of 24 men and five women business executives have been studying Japanese intensively since February this year at a school created to cater for their specific needs, to learn business Japanese in 12 months.

Participation in the programme is restricted to people with a university degree or equivalent professional qualification, a minimum of two years' business experience and an interest and ability in international commercial relations.

Peter Scott talks to Edward Parkes who leaves the UGC next year to be vice chancellor at Leeds

The management of affairs of state and university

Can the University Grants Committee survive in anything like its present form into the 1990s? This may be the question that preoccupies many in the universities, and which almost as many are disposed to answer in the negative, but it does not weigh heavily on Dr Edward Parkes, who next summer will complete five years as chairman of the UGC during its most turbulent period.

It would be inaccurate to say that the controversy provoked by the UGC's decision to reduce the grant of some universities much more than that of others, which involved perhaps inevitably a fair amount of covert calumny of the committee collectively and of Dr Parkes personally, has left no mark on him. He has become more canny, and perhaps a little more introspective, since the day he was made chairman by Mrs Shirley Williams before the flood.

But his belief in the UGC as the best institution to watch over the universities has not been shaken. He remains fully confident that the present grants regime represents a good balance between the necessary national dimension and the equally necessary freedom of the individual university, and is convinced that no better means can be found to manage the tricky relationship between universities and the state.

Not that Dr Parkes dogmatically dismisses the radical alternatives to the UGC, such as the financing of universities through full-cost tuition fees, which have been proposed by the Central Policy Review Staff apparently among others. Indeed he believes there is much common ground.

"I like to regard the UGC as a consumers' association," he explained. "It tries to represent the viewpoint of the users of the university system – which is why we start with subjects not institutions. After all students want to read a particular subject more than they want to attend a particular institution. Institutional loyalties develop later. The same applies to postgraduates and researchers."

However this does not lead him to the conclusion that the UGC, which tries to oversee a balanced national provision, should be scrapped and the money channelled instead through the "hot hands" of 18-year-olds, although he admits that the latter might pay particular attention to value for money.

Dr Parkes sees two main objections. First, research (which, to be fair, was specifically excluded by the Think Tank in its recent report). Money for research would have to be separated from money for teaching if universities had to depend entirely on student fees. Because private industry could not be expected to pay for basic research, priorities would need to be established and then paid for by the state, in some form, at the centre.

Secondly, he wonders whether the university system should be forced to react too sharply to the short-term choices of young people. "The swing away from, and back to science took place in not much more than five years, but dons are there for 30 years. Resources cannot be switched easily to satisfy ephemeral fashion."

Yet Dr Parkes has an open mind. He remains convinced that the present balance between central control and student demand is right in a period of very rapid contraction. Otherwise, universities might be tempted to admit more students, not for sound educational reasons, but simply to help their cash flow.

However, in conditions of level funding, which will prevail in the university system after the present rundown is complete, he believes there is a strong case for encouraging funding from a multiplicity of sources.

In any case the flexibility which would be encouraged by this greater diversity of funding would be necessary to maintain the momentum of university development. "We have always had a dynamic system, which is why the committee resisted the ossification of institutions into categories like liberal arts," explained Dr Parkes.

"In considering whether to earmark grants or how to shape the recurrent grant distribution, the UGC has to bear in mind constantly the kind of student the system is going to cater for in the future. We need to recognize the, probable, reduction over time of the standard undergraduate population, mainly for demographic reasons, and so the increasing weight of continuing education in university provision as a whole."

At present continuing education absorbs about 10 per cent of universities' resources, Dr Parkes estimates. At this level it was possible, although not necessarily desirable, to regard it as a marginal activity that should not be given much weight in the distribution of the UGC grants. But if it rose to 20 or even 30 per cent, the UGC would need to think very hard about the impact of continuing education on the total funding operation and on the structure of fees.

Nevertheless the chairman of the UGC believes this shift to continuing education should be encouraged by the committee despite the administrative difficulty. "If there is a new body of knowledge that needs to be injected by the universities into industry, the slowest way is through undergraduate courses. It takes five years and even then the graduates are inevitably employed at the lowest level in industry," explained Dr Parkes. "Through continuing education, on the other hand, the transmission is almost immediate and operates at a higher, and therefore more influential, level."

The record of the universities in meeting the needs of employers and professions through continuing education had been good on the whole, he added. It was especially good in the case of medical schools, although disappointing in engineering where the total amount of university-based and in-house continuing education in Britain was less than in a single company on the continent. Inevitably there would be difficulty in identifying the market for continuing education with sufficient accuracy and letting potential beneficiaries know what was available especially for small companies.

Dr Parkes is not abashed by the criticisms of almost imperialist *dirigisme*, conservatism, and secrecy that have been directed at the UGC since it sent its July 1981 letter. On one point he is categorical. "The UGC is not in the business of managing universities. It has not laid down a blueprint that universities must follow. In the end the universities know best."

But he is equally firm in his belief that the UGC would have failed in its duty if it had either resigned or simply passed on the cuts on an equal misery basis. "The ideal of a token resignation by one or more members was briefly discussed but the resignation of the whole committee was never considered," he explained.

"Had we resigned the result would have been either a less informed UGC because we would have been replaced by members who might have possessed the knowledge but could not have had the experience of the existing members, or the committee would not have been replaced and the job would have been done by DES officials who, under the terms of the whole UGC operation cannot know all the facts. In any case the impact of our resignation would have lasted for 12 hours at the most."

If the committee had not resigned but merely passed on the cuts on a non-selective basis, its members would have been taking money on false pretences because their action would have been the equivalent of resigning.

Dr Parkes added: "It was, and is not obvious to me that if the system is to be cut by 15 per cent then the best solution, that provides the best value for money across the range of subjects, is an 85 per cent scale model of the existing system."

He also denies the charge of excessive secrecy, insisting that the broad shape of the criteria the UGC adopted in its selectivity strategy are clear. Although it had been argued that the committee had insufficient information – "if we had spent 100 years on the job we would still not have all the relevant information" – every university had had its half-day in Park Crescent when it had been able to put its case to the UGC.

It had not been obsessed by the A level grades of students on entry but recognized that some universities with a poor A level entry did a first-class teaching job. But one message which the committee had received and acted upon, and had been reinforced since, was that with rapid changes in the economy in prospect industry was dissatisfied with over-specialist graduates but preferred generalists who could be flexible.

However Dr Parkes does admit that the UGC had "a problem" with the newer universities, the new foundations of the 1960s and the former colleges of advanced technology, because they had started many subjects in the expectation of considerable expansion which in the end had not materialized. The result was some small and even unviable departments. The UGC had to take some tough decision about which should be allowed to wither and which had to be preserved.

On secrecy Dr Parkes reiterates that it is up to the Government to make public the advice it receives from the committee – with more than a hint of regret that the UGC's "remarkably accurate" advice of 1979 which warned of the damage that the projected cuts in public expenditure would cause to the universities has remained unpublished. He expects that now that the Secretary of State has set a precedent by writing a formal letter of advice to the UGC the committee's advice is more likely to be made public in future.

However he insists on the continued need for confidentiality in the UGC's relations with individual universities. "The UGC has a very small staff and our whole operation depends on a high degree of mutual confidence between the committee and the universities. In fact the universities are remarkably frank with us because they know that what they say will never be passed on to ministers. If there was a more formal and exposed relationship we could not expect the same frankness. So the UGC would need five times as many staff to get the same information by more formal means."

Nor does Dr Parkes accept the criticism of the vice chancellor of Salford University that a firm distinction must be made between advisory and administrative bodies and that the UGC has got into a mess because the two roles have been confusingly combined. This criticism, he feels might have some weight if the UGC was the only source of advice to the Government but that was not so.

Dr Parkes is also unhappy with the idea that the UGC should be regarded as a lobby for the universities. "We just provide a balanced analysis. We don't exaggerate," he said. However, this modesty has not prevented the UGC from engaging in some fairly bruising battles within Government.

Last autumn's three battles, all successfully concluded, were resisting the Treasury's plans for further cuts during the present three-year rundown, obtaining a restructuring fund to buy out tenure and to make room for new initiatives, and securing a generous compensation scheme for university teachers who left the profession. The last was the most difficult and left the roughest scars.

This autumn Dr Parkes has another trio of battles, on salaries, rates, and superannuation. The first two are the consequences of costs that have escalated either because of arbitration awards or local authority defiance of the Government's wishes on rates, over which the universities have no effective control. The last is as much the result of the longevity of university teachers as early retirements.

Lurking in the background is a fourth battle which Dr Parkes may find it more difficult to win. The Treasury has now concluded that after the rundown universities will have excess physical capacity, which should be disposed of, so making it possible to cut the university grant still further. "It is very alluring to the Treasury at first sight," said Dr Parkes. "We are arguing that its potential yield would be negligible over the next year or so because some extra capital expenditure will be required for restructuring and because there will be few takers for unneeded university property, especially on green field sites."

Dr Parkes is cautious in his approach to the new National Advisory Body for polytechnics and colleges. He insists that at the operational level there is not real difficulty. Discussions have already made progress on issues such as subject balance across the system and the compatibility of statistics.

But he anticipates more difficulty at a formal level because of the different composition of the two bodies. So long as local authorities remained involved and if the NAB developed a strong regional structure, the fear of the universities that any close association would undermine their status as national and international institutions would be a barrier.

Dr Parkes displayed the same nervousness towards the idea of an overarching body, a national higher education commission, as he did to the UGC's junior rival. He sees no merit in it (like Mr Waldegrave) arguing that all the in-house advice the Government needs about the universities it can get from the UGC.

Next summer Dr Parkes leaves the UGC to become vice chancellor of Leeds University. Although he was urged by both ministers and by the vice chancellors to serve for a second term he had no doubt he should leave.

"It is very important that the chairman should bring to this job ideas, modes of thought, that are based on fairly recent and intimate knowledge of the universities," he explained. "He needs the authority of this background to set against the very different wisdom of Whitehall. For five years he can maintain that independence; in 10 years his roots in the academic world might wither and he might become just another Whitehall mandarin."

Next week: Christopher Ball, chairman of the NAB.

EDUCATION AND TRAINING FOR EMPLOYMENT in the 1980's

On July 2, the Times Higher Education Supplement published a special six page feature on several facets of the New Training Initiative. Included were articles by Geoffrey Holland, the Director of the Manpower Services Commission, Mick Farley of NATFHE and Clare Short of Youthaid and others. Reprints of the feature are now available at a cost of 40p.

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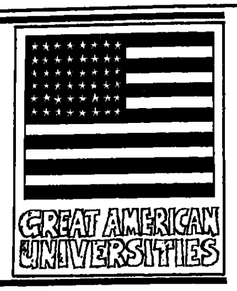
Passing through a period of change

Peter David concludes his series with a report on the progress of four of the top institutions



The half dozen great universities at the apex of American higher education have been remarkably unscathed by the financial crisis which is sweeping through the lower tiers of the 3,000-strong university system.

Cuts in federal financial aid to students, both actual and proposed, have triggered a frightened stampede of competitive recruiting at colleges of all sizes. But the cuts have not even dented the ability of the Harvards and the Yales to keep out all but the very brightest.

Reductions in the federal science budget and the relentless increase in equipment costs have pushed many campuses to the financial brink, but the impact of these trends has been cushioned at the elite universities by huge increases in private fund-raising and lucrative new ventures with business and industry.

Yet even at these universities the quiet can be deceptive. Conscious of their role as the nation's academic standard-bearers and a primary spring of technological innovation, the elite universities have been grappling with an array of difficulties.

Some of these problems are shared by all the leading institutions while others are a product of individual circumstances and characteristics. A common anxiety of the leading campuses is the extent to which they have become dependent, since the war, on federal research support.

Although the Reagan administration has been careful to protect the federal science budget from the full impact of public spending reductions, the long-term downward spiral in federal spending has had damaging consequences for university laboratories and instrumentation.

Their dependence on federal science funds has made even the private universities into creatures of the federal government. Although the partnership between the universities and Washington has in most ways been a superlative success, it has recently been placed under important new strains.

Most worrying from the universities' point of view is the tendency of the federal government, particularly since the advent of the Reagan administration, to seek more control over the publication of research conducted with federal money.

The reason most often cited for a desire to exercise control over publication is national security. Washington – led by Pentagon under-secretary Frank Carlucci and former deputy director of the CIA, Admiral Robert Inman – is convinced that militarily-useful information is seeping out of the universities and falling into the hands of the Soviet Union and the People's Republic of China.

The last two years have seen a number of instances in which federal agencies have intervened to block the visits of Chinese or Soviet scholars – or suppressed the publication of research papers – lest American military secrets fall into the wrong hands.

On several occasions, the nature of the intervention has seemed to the universities to be crudely heavy handed, threatening to sour the basic fabric of relationships between the two sectors. Donald Kennedy, president of Stanford, has become a particularly vocal critic of the extent to which the cold warriors in Washington are damaging cooperation with the campuses.

Among the most celebrated cases were a decision by the State Department to block the visit of a Soviet robotics expert to Stanford and, more recently, a Pentagon decision to stop the publication of more than 100 papers due to be delivered at an international academic conference in San Diego.

Although they are not eager for a confrontation with the government, the leading universities are determined to ensure that their growing reliance on federal research money – of which an ever-growing proportion is being channelled through the Defense Department – is not allowed to contribute to any significant diminution of the right to publish.

Lurking behind this fear is another, less concrete, anxiety. Its control of the research purse-strings has, over time, begun to give the federal government a dominant voice in the shaping of the national research agenda.

In general, this huge influence has seldom been abused: scientists at Massachusetts Institute of Technology tend to praise the wisdom with which Washington has organized its investment in basic science.

Sometimes, however, national politicians have introduced a whiff of Lysenkoism into science policy – most recently in the form of savage and disproportionate cuts in the amount of federal support earmarked for the social and behavioural sciences.

So a major concern in most of the great universities is to find a way of preserving some independent control over the direction of science policy, either by exercising powers of persuasion in Washington or using the universities' own funds to protect areas of activity which are unable to attract sponsorship from government or industry.

A second shared concern at most of the great universities is related to the teaching of undergraduates. In Harvard, Berkeley, Stanford and MIT major reforms in the undergraduate programme are either in prospect or have recently been completed.

Each institution gives a slightly different explanation for the reforms it has introduced, and the general direction of the changes is by no means uniform.

At Harvard, for example, the faculty decided that in an intellectual environment of expanding and fragmenting knowledge, traditional attempts to introduce all students to a basic core of great texts and ideas made little sense.

Instead, Harvard introduced a curriculum based on narrow but deep slices of knowledge, designed less to ensure that Harvard graduates were reasonably cultivated and more to introduce students to the methods of discourse underpinning the major disciplines.

Stanford, meanwhile, has taken a very different path, turning back from the permissive curricula of the 1960s and requiring all undergraduates to acquire a common familiarity with a group of basic texts organized within a course on western civilization.

The ferment of change in undergraduate programmes at these universities appears sometimes to have less to do with perceptions about changes in knowledge than with a pervasive feeling that in recent decades undergraduate teaching has been neglected by a faculty preoccupied with research.

At institutions as eminent as Harvard, Stanford, Berkeley and MIT, research and not teaching is the determinant of academic status and rewards. The curricular reforms introduced at these places are often designed as much to interest senior scholars in teaching as to redefine the programme of studies undertaken by undergraduates.

A third problem common to most of the great universities, but impacting differently on each of them, concerns race relations. All the leading institutions have worked hard to increase the proportion of ethnic minorities enrolled as students, but their success has been variable.

Harvard has performed magnificently, with some 20 per cent of its student body being drawn from ethnic minorities. Berkeley has recruited a huge proportion of Asian Americans but failed to make a significant impact on California's burgeoning Chicano population.

But the universities' race problems have not ended there. At Harvard, for example, the law school is currently being torn by an angry dispute about the tiny number (two) of full-time black professors. Black students are boycotting a course on civil rights on the grounds that one of two lecturers assigned to it is white.

Harvard is also gripped by a deeper problem related to race. Ever since the 1960s, the university has been uncertain about what to do with a special programme of Afro-Caribbean studies, demanded by students as a recognition of the rights of blacks but so far unable to gain academic respectability despite strenuous efforts.

A fourth concern of the leading universities is to define an appropriate relationship with national politics. Despite their protestations to the contrary, most of the campuses believe it important to attract the attention of powerful national figures. Often, though, the institutional procedures through which such contacts are arranged are deeply ambivalent.

Stanford, for example, benefits by the presence of the Hoover Institution by virtue of the resources it attracts to the campus and the constellation of headline-grabbing stars associated with it – Friedman, Hayek and Solzhenitsyn. But many at the university are embarrassed by the partisan ideological flavour of the institution.

At Harvard, likewise, controversy has swirled around the creation of the Kennedy School of Government. Supporters portray it as a visionary attempt to educate a much-needed cadre of professional public servants. Detractors see it as an academically dubious vehicle for keeping Harvard in the national political spotlight.

A final problem common to the universities is, perhaps, the most perplexing of all, because it will determine the way the institutions tackle all their other problems. That is the question of whether the huge and complex research universities have become ungovernable, in the sense that they are no longer communities but merely hotels for experts.

This problem takes many forms, including the relative inability of university administrations to influence the policies of the semi-autonomous graduate and professional schools, and the difficulty universities are experiencing in attempts to control the entrepreneurial activities of their staff.

It is, according to Stanford's Donald Kennedy, the most challenging problem of all, and one which has been tackled very differently by each of the leading institutions.

So despite their prestige and affluence, America's great universities are passing through a period of profound self-analysis and change. To report on their progress, *The THES* visited four of the nation's most eminent institutions: Harvard and MIT in the nation's academic heartland of Massachusetts; and Stanford and Berkeley, two very different institutions immersed in the economic exuberance and political uncertainties of California.

Stanford

Stanford is perhaps the least troubled of America's great universities. Until recently painfully aware of its image as the precocious newcomer, Stanford appears at last to have imbibed some of the serene confidence suggested by its magnificent eucalyptus-shaded campus in Palo Alto.

Stanfordians who used to describe their institution as the Harvard of the west are now more apt to stress what is distinctively Californian about Stanford: its informality, its readiness to experiment and the absence of too much constraining tradition.

But the emphasis on its differences is a luxury Stanford can afford only because of phenomenal success in traditional academic accomplishments. In less than a century, Stanford has created the nation's leading departments of business, education, psychology, computer science and chemical engineering.

Measured by the reputational surveys so beloved of American academics, Stanford's rise has been mercurial. Between 1957 and 1969 it moved from thirteenth to third place in the overall excellence of its graduate programmes.

In 1978 a national survey of 4,000 academics rated Stanford first in business, education and psychology and second in medicine. In 17 of 19 fields covered in the survey, 10 per cent of respondents said Stanford had one of the top five departments in their discipline – second only to its gigantic neighbour, Berkeley.

The secret of Stanford's success has been money. When the railroad tycoon Leland Stanford founded the university at the turn of the century he left it with more than 8,000 acres of what has since become some of the most precious land in the Golden State.

A policy of paying big dollars for top names, combined with the natural lure of California, quickly enticed a number of world-class scholars away from the traditional academic sanctuaries in the east. The movement snowballed, with the appointment of every senior academic adding to Stanford's glamour in the eyes of bright graduate students.

The university's wealth and prestige have been fortified by its bold investment of both land and ideas in California's burgeoning high technology industries. Silicon Valley and its transistorized fantasia owe their birth and rapid growth to the entrepreneurial flair of Stanford engineers like Frederick Terman and William Shockley.

Intellectually, too, Stanford's history has been astonishingly fertile, particularly in science and technology. Its scientists invented the Klystron tube and built the world's first linear accelerator. With it, Robert Hofstadter unmasked the proton and Burton Richter proved the existence of a new subatomic particle.

In biology, Stanford has been a world leader in the development of gene manipulation – Arthur Kornberg and Paul Berg won Nobel prizes for mapping out the possibilities. Stanley Cohen, with the University of California's Herbert Boyer, perfected the techniques of cloning.

Whatever doubts might once have existed about the ability of a university of buy its way to the pinnacle of academic eminence have now disappeared. With a magnificent faculty, plenty of land an endowment of more than $600m, Stanford is not only one of the most distinguished universities in the world but also one of the few which has the capacity to expand beyond its 7,000 undergraduates.

Expansion, however, is the last thing on the mind of Donald Kennedy, Stanford's president. He said that Stanford wanted to consolidate before considering expansion. And even then, the only probable expansion would be a modest growth of around 20 per cent in the number of postgraduates.

"I don't see a way to ensure that we can hold our quality and do the things we do well at substantially larger scale," he said. "We will be depending increasingly on residential educational programmes; we already find that our class sizes are uncomfortably large in some areas and that our advising system is stretched to capacity or beyond."

But for Kennedy, a brilliant neurophysiologist and former head of the Food and Drug Administration, consolidation will not mean standing still. Stanford is in the throes of a bewildering number of initiatives and reorganizations.

In some cases these initiatives – like the creation of a massive industry-sponsored centre for integrated systems – spawn problems by virtue of their very success. Stanford's symbiotic relationship with the high technology firms of the Santa Clara valley is forcing the university to face difficult conflict-of-interest dilemmas when academics become entrepreneurs.

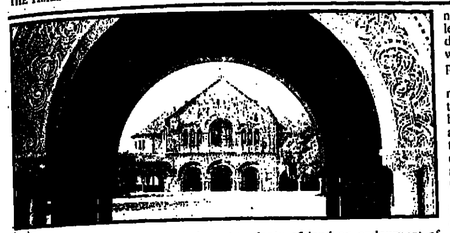
Other initiatives at Stanford have more ephemeral aims connected with the quality of education. For all his hard science background, Kennedy is an academic traditionalist determined to protest the beleaguered social sciences and humanities and foster an atmosphere in which a liberal education can flourish.

At Kennedy's urging, Stanford has invested its own funds heavily in the creation of graduate fellowship opportunities in the social sciences and humanities – areas which are finding it less easy to win government or industry sponsorship and which are out of favour with a new generation of vocationally-driven students.

The preservation of a balanced disciplinary portfolio is important for an institution which is, in many ways, similar to Massachusetts Institute of Technology in its technological accomplishments but which has worked hard to become a fully-rounded university. The task is the more challenging because all the leavers of student preference and the availability of funds are pulling in the other direction – towards science, technology and professional training.

Kennedy's attempts to swim against the tide are exemplified by a recently-announced initiative designed to restore the prestige of the nation's schools of education. Stanford's is rated top, but like many of its counterparts has come to be regarded as both marginal to the concerns of the high school and academically second class.

In a twofold proposal to rehabilitate the schools of education Kennedy is urging them to take on more direct responsibilities for improving the quality of pre-college education. At the same time, he wants to see social scientists of real stature moving into schools of education to raise their academic coin.



Harvard

Harvard University is paralysed by the uncomfortable fact that it has been at the top for so long that it should it decide to move at all, the only direction is down. Over the last decade Harvard has maintained its wealth, its libraries and its ferocious high standards. But it has also had to come to terms with the realization that it can no longer exercise unchallenged national leadership.

In the view of the historian Oscar Handlin, the university's inertia has been no bad thing. It largely saved Harvard from being "blown off course" by the demands for relevance and equality which swept through so many universities in the 1960s. What has changed is not so much Harvard as the place Harvard now occupies in America's cultural imagination.

For 30 or 40 years of the beginning of the century Harvard set the standards not only for other universities but for the nation's secondary schools as well. It produced a rather constricted view of American culture but had offsetting advantages, acting as an integrative force in a culturally dispersed society.

Handlin said: "Harvard was not necessarily the best university of that period. Often more interesting things were going on in Chicago or Johns Hopkins. But it had a way of assimilating the advances that others made and incorporating them in the cultural canon".

Harvard's president, Derek Bok, accepts the thesis that Harvard's leadership has necessarily diminished as competing regional centres have changed the intellectual topography of the United States.

Yet Harvard's influence remains prodigious. Few other universities boast an alumni network so powerful that it has been able to raise $350m for the undergraduate college, with 75 per cent coming in the form of gifts of $100,000 and above from a core of glittering alumni at the pinnacle of business and government.

Most of the dollars raised through the campaign are earmarked for consolidation – the endowment of new professorships, more aid for poorer students and protection against inflation. Harvard is a traditional university, wary of too much experimention or too many initiatives.

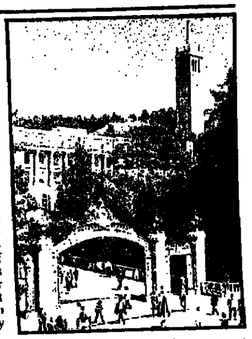
There have been changes, however. Most profound is the university's success in developing a genuinely meritocratic approach to student recruitment. By spending large sums on aid to poorer students and combing the nation for talented school-leavers, Harvard has been able to cast off its social exclusiveness without compromising on standards.

A second change, the significance of which will probably not become clear for several years, is the reform of the undergraduate curriculum. The new curriculum, designed to give students a more analytical introduction to the disciplines, has been variously criticized as over-ambitious, organizationally unwieldy and intellectually timid.

The most self-conscious experiment launched during Bok's incumbency, creation of the Kennedy School of Government, has also attracted considerable controversy. Billed as a centre which would train a desperately-needed core of high calibre public servants, the school has been criticized for sailing too close to current events.

Many observers of the school doubt whether it will be able to fulfil Bok's original aim of producing the kind of public servants he envisaged. Its real achievement, in the long run, may be in engineering a fruitful alliance between the quick-response ethos of policy studies and the slow authority of a traditional university.

Berkeley



Last month's unexpected resignation of David Saxon, the University of California's highly respected president, dramatized the mounting political and economic pressures which are being imposed on the state's sprawling higher education system. Berkeley, the university's flagship campus, is the fulcrum of those pressures.

Although more prosperous than many states, California's public budget has been reeling under the twin impacts of a continuing recession and the delayed consequences of the notorious tax-cutting initiatives introduced over recent years. For Berkeley, the most worrying result has been a refusal by the state to raise faculty salaries to a nationally competitive level.

As one of the only public universities to have carved out a place at the apex of the academic Establishment, Berkeley has always reacted sensitively to any measure which threatens to weaken its ability to compete with private universities for the best scholars.

David Littlejohn, professor of journalism and chairman of the academic senate's education policy committee, said: "Both the campus and the administration are almost pathologically quality conscious. It is probably a leftover attitude from decades of being regarded as second class because it is a state university".

Berkeley's unease is sharpened by the growing eminence of nearby Stanford, a much smaller institution with the money and independence it needs to feel it is master of its own destiny. Berkeley, by contrast, is locked into a complex state university, with all the public constraints and obligations which that implies.

Earl Cheit, dean of business administration and a former consultant to the Carnegie commission on higher education, sees the present financial straitns as a test of the state's political attitude to higher education.

To preserve Berkeley's position as a world-class university it will be necessary to protect it from the cuts being administered through the rest of the nine campus system. The state has not yet decided whether to do so, he said.

"The test Berkeley faces is that it is a unique institution. It is unique because on the one hand of its land grant heritage offering upward mobility, and on the other its tradition of being as good as the most elite private institution."

All the indications are that Berkeley's search for a balance between its contending roles will be played out at three levels: in the institutional politics of the University of California system; within the wider politics of the state; and within the Berkeley campus itself.

The politics of the nine campus system have, traditionally, been dominated by tensions between Berkeley and the rest. Now that University College of Los Angeles has pulled itself into the same league as Berkeley, the university is reluctant to dilute its resources still more lest the two elite campuses are damaged. As a result, Berkeley is allowed to receive preferential treatment despite the considerable lip-service paid to the parity of the other campuses. While Berkeley is, for example, formally locked into a system-wide salary structure, it is able in practice to pay significantly more than its perners to attract star scholars.

The tradition of discreet favouritism is unlikely to be successfully challenged but it is also unlikely to be strengthened. Attempts to do so would provoke noisy protests – particularly from the campus at San Diego, which has made massive strides in some sciences but found its aspirations to become a comprehensive research university thwarted by the recession.

A similar ambivalence extends into the realm of state politics. Few people at Berkeley rend the squeeze on resources as indicating any large public dissatisfaction with higher education. Most Californians are prepared to be proud of their "people's university" and regret that it has become an innocent victim of a wider animus against public spending.

Yet the state has never really determined whether it wants to emphasize the brilliance of Berkeley or its social responsiveness. The two attributes are in a state of permanent tension.

The sociologist Neil Smelser, chairman of the academic senate, said: "There is an abiding ambivalence among responsible people in the state. On the one hand there is constant pressure for Berkeley to serve the students of California, to have more undergradnate teaching, to discriminate against outsiders by tuition fees and other mechanisms.

"The other side is the enormous pride which the state leaders have in the academic excellence of the institution. This is an ambivalence that is never settled."

This tension has come no nearer to a resolution within Berkeley itself. The campus is constantly juggling its commitment to wide public access and social responsibility against its determination to maintain the highest standards in research.

A particularly thorny aspect of the dilemma is the problem Berkeley faces in knowing how far it can move towards affirmative action for ethnic minorities without jeopardizing its position as a highly selective campus.

Last year was the first in which caucasians made up less than 60 per cent of the student body. But the figure is deceptive because the vast majority of non-caucasian students were Asian. Blacks and Chicanos, despite their growing numbers in California, each accounted for only about 3 per cent of students.

The under-representation of Chicanos is described as "entirely natural" by University of California president David Saxon.

Yet Berkeley has been working hard to tackle the problem at source by improving the performance of the schools – a herculean task given that there are more than 1,000 separate school districts in the state. The university's famous Bay Area writing project is being extended to upgrade the teaching of mathematics in local schools.

Professor Roderic Park, the vice chancellor, estimates that by 1990 Asians will make up 40 per cent of Berkeley's student population.

He believes the influx of Asians could have enormous implications for the campus both educationally and politically. Educationally because many Asians students are as weak in English as they are strong in mathematics, and politically because Asians are not yet a strong political force in the state and could come to be seen as displacing students from longer-established communities.

As always, Berkeley is in the throes of debate about how to mitigate the effect on new students of its enormous size. With more than 30,000 students and more than 1,000 full professors, the institution concedes that parts of the undergraduate programme – particularly the first two years – can be socially fragmented and academically confusing.

Robert Middlekauff, provost and dean of the college of letters and science, has recently launched an initiative to tidy up those years by trying to integrate the undergraduate courses and strengthen the system of "freshmen clusters" designed to make the environment more humane for isolated students.

But by far the most noticeable change among undergraduates at Berkeley is their political quietness. The hallowed gates of Sproul Plaza which saw the rise of the Free Speech movement and seethed with political debate throughout the late 1960s now receive scarcely a glance from busy students hurrying conscientiously to work.

MIT

Although it was the dream of its founders that it would eventually blossom into a fully-rounded university, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology shows few signs today of straightening out its lopsided polarization around science.

Luminaries like Paul Samuelson and Noam Chomsky have blessed MIT with special strengths in economics and linguistics; its psychology is distinguished and political science has a strong tradition.

But MIT's general activities in the social sciences are limited and its humanities – hobbled by the lack of graduate studies – hover uneasily on the institution's intellectual periphery.

The institute's leadership has talked for decades about ways of nurturing the weak limbs of the social sciences, and every few years there is a new proposal for bridging the two cultures.

Recently, however, these initiatives have been pushed to the bottom of the agenda to allow MIT to protect its core strengths – in engineering and science – from a variety of troubling challenges.

One of the challenges is being mounted by competing universities which have begun to undermine MIT's apparently national pre-eminence in fundamental scientific disciplines.

Privately, senior faculty are prepared to surrender MIT's crown in biology and computer science to Stanford. Challenges are also being mounted by the affluent state universities in Texas and Florida.

But the university's most overriding anxiety is its relationship with the federal government. This is a relationship closer probably than any other university in the United States and one that has forced MIT into a situation of chronic dependency.

The relationship took off during the war when MIT's defensive research into radar persuaded some of the world's best physicists to take an interest in engineering problems. Impressed by the wartime alliance of science and imaginative engineering, the United States poured huge sums into MIT from the 1950s to the 1970s, enabling the university to undertake a rapid expansion of its faculty.

The tailing off of federal funds in the past decade has therefore left MIT specially vulnerable – hooked on "soft money" and dependent on federal agencies for 90 per cent of its sponsored research.

Dependency exacts a price, part of which is having to acquiesce in governmental definitions of scientific priorities. Professor Kenneth Smith, associate provost in charge of research at MIT, maintains that it is hard to separate the federal science bureaucracy – with its peer review processes and national laboratories – from the academic community.

Whilst it is certainly true that the federal government is the largest source of research funding "don't think you can separate that and say this is one of the bureaucracy making policy decisions about what should or should not be funded in research," he says.

But others at MIT disagree, pointing to specific instances where federal priorities have distorted, or at least determined, the direction of scientific progress. Applied mathematics has been relatively neglected; MIT's energy research has taken on a more applied and less fundamental approach than would have been likely if it were not for a huge federal financial stake.

Dependence on soft money creates other pressures, too. With 35 per cent of faculty salaries generated from sponsored research, individual academics are expected to pull their weight in the race to win federal grants for MIT.

As a result, there is relatively little time for the quiet pursuit of teaching or interaction with students.

Professor Frank Perkins, associate provost for education, said: "An individual faculty member can generate his own size of operation. The largest single contraint in space."

Despite these pressures, however, MIT appears to have been more successful than many universities of comparable status in maintaining a loyal, even clubby, faculty and a close relationship between staff and students.

Paradoxically enough, the strength of the teaching programme appears to be a result of the supreme importance attached to research. Professor Perkins said: "It is a widely shared belief in MIT that one of the motivating factors for being engaged in research is not only to advance the state of knowledge but also to use research as a vehicle for teaching students."

The most obvious part of that linkage is simply the fact that subjects here, the content of subjects, change at a very rapid pace. We have very few if any classic subjects which are simply taught year after year in the same fashion.

"It is in fact the institutionalization of constant change which has been one of MIT's greatest strengths, change which has been reflected not in the creation of new departments or the dissolution of old ones but by the readiness of MIT's academics to move across a number of disciplines in the course of their careers.

Dr Walter Rosenblith, an elder statesman of MIT and a pioneer in the use of computers and mathematical models in the study of the brain, traces the university's special vitality to its interest in solving problems regardless of disciplinary boundaries.

MIT's focus on problems rather than disciplines has, however, been a weakness as well as a strength. Professor Carl Kaysen, Skinner professor of political economy said: "This institution is the apotheosis of the culture of practical reason. Its dominant intellectual impression is that there is a solution to every problem."

Kaysen was brought into MIT in 1977 to set up its pioneering Science Technology and Science programme – the latest in a long succession of attempts to sensitize the university to the social and economic context of "practical reason".

The STS programme includes some big names: Kaysen himself; the philosopher of science Thomas Kuhn; Jerome Wiesner, former president of MIT and science adviser to John Kennedy and Lyndon Johnson.

But the programme has not yet had a profound influence on MIT; despite what Kaysen describes as an "open and experimental atmosphere, where I meet scepticism but not hostility".

Expansion of the STS programme – originally intended to become a full college – has been stalled. More worrying, no scientists or engineer of real stature has been willing to give themselves over to the programme full time.

The transformation of MIT from a scientific powerhouse into a full-scale university bridging the "two cultures" remains, for the time being, a distant dream.

Twelve years of NELP

Newly retired George Brosan reflects on the founding and building up of a poly. Felicity Jones reports

If there was one self-styled motto which might attempt to encapsulate Dr George Brosan, recently retired director and founder father of North-East London Polytechnic, it would be: "We were not sent into this world to sit still and know. We were sent into the world to act."

The first few minutes of the interview with Dr Brosan proved the point.

Following little by way of introductory small talk, Dr Brosan produced with a flourish a newspaper cutting about one Carlo Cataneo, the founder in the last century of a little known, even obscure, Italian magazine *Il Politechnico* the avowed aims of which were the "*studi applicati alla prosperita e culturn sociale*".

It proved variously that the notion of "applied" knowledge has been doing the intellectual rounds for some considerable time and there is nothing new under the sun. More pertinently, it showed that Dr Brosan is an inveterate magpie for bits and pieces of information and a tireless peruser of the media as instanced by the founding of the Communications Guild, of which Dr Brosan was the president. The principles of which learned society were feasibility, accuracy, literacy, logic, psychology and so on.

A rifle through *The THES* cuttings revealed a man of many parts who survived a tempestuous and controversial period at NELP closing with the first of the massive cost-cutting exercises when the polytechnic cut its non-academic staff by 100. An achievement which Dr Brosan is proud to testify to.

Although a fervent individualist who might have felt more at home in the last century, he remained surprisingly faithful to the basic tenets with which he took up the post as the first of the polytechnic directors.

In 1971, he expounded a polytechnic philosophy in a Penguin special edition *Patterns and Policies in Higher Education* in which he stated that polytechnics were being introduced because of the social failure of the universities, citing the overwhelming demand from students then for more community-related studies.

"If Oxford and Cambridge had been involved with their own community, neither Oxford Polytechnic nor Cambridge College of Technology would have existed," he wrote.

These new "bastard", socially unacceptable institutions, as he described them, were concerned with practical activity as opposed to the "ideal" of the universities. Or to put the difference in one of his favourite formulations: the role of the universities was to "monitor" and transmit past knowledge, while the role of the new polytechnics was to "match" learning to work in a very broad vocational sense.

At the time Dr Brosan rejected Mr Enoch Powell's statement as "palpably untrue" that there was no correlation between the amount of education and the growth of wealth of a nation. On the contrary, education could create the conditions for economic growth, he said.

In the early 1960s he put forward the idea of a People's University in an article in *The Spectator* and proposed the merger of Brunel College of Teacher Training, Ealing College and Hornsey College of Art as a step in that direction. This idea was rejected but later taken up by the Department of Education and Science.

There were several basic principles which produced the break with the polytechnics from the university tradition, according to Dr Brosan. These were the pursuit of practical knowledge; the special relationship with industry; a fluid time pattern (involving part-time and sandwich courses); different ranges and levels of study; open access for mature and poorly qualified students; taking the initiative rather than being reactive; and a responsiveness to local needs.

"We should be ready to embark on a restyling of curricula which involves the elements of life which are personal, real and expressive rather than merely intellectual," he wrote at the time.

His commitment to these principles meant he held doggedly to the view that polytechnics should not seek autonomous status. A development which he thought would lead to them becoming second-rate universities.

Even during the battle with his three local authorities over NELP's financial problems, Dr Brosan clung virtually alone out of all the polytechnic directors to the view that they should remain financially linked and responsive to the local needs.

"Polytechnics need a charter like they do a hole in the head," is still his position on the subject.

On reflection he admits the polytechnics, and NELP in particular as the one he was most closely involved with, have done well in the brief time they had to sort things out.

"Twelve years was a short time especially when you consider that the staff we had had been engaged under totally different criteria," he said. "In parts we did brilliantly, in other areas not so well."

"We had spectacular success in business studies and computing courses and the impact on teacher training, which was brought in later, was quite staggering. In universities teacher education was hived off into outside buildings, whereas in the polytechnics it was brought into the mainstream."

Dr Brosan recalls how the head of teacher training at the time came to him and said that his department would be a college within a college. He was soon disabused of this notion.

The slowness of the building programme did not help matters. "We inherited buildings built generations before for totally different purposes and we were not given the multi-million pound grants to rectify that situation. At which I was not surprised but disappointed", he added.

Dr Brosan is especially proud of the diploma of higher education in independent study which was developed at NELP because it exemplifies many of the facets which set polytechnics as distinct and valuable institutions apart from the universities.

Dr Brosan: 'In parts we did brilliantly in other areas not so well'

The diploma was designed for students with no formal qualifications, in particular for mature students who had been working in some field of activity like trade or industry. Students were accepted after lengthy interview and after six weeks were expected to propose a three-party contract of study with the tutor and institution which specified what study they were to do, how it was to be done and the criteria on which it would be judged.

For the future, Dr Brosan believes that the polytechnic experiment did not go far enough. He still believes the way forward is for a consortium of polytechnics and colleges which would cater for all post-school education in our region.

The region would be defined by transport lines rather than by geographical areas and courses would supply needs on a cooperative basis to avoid unnecessary duplication.

As far as the proposed rationalisation process under consideration by the National Advisory Body for Local Authority Higher Education is concerned, he thinks that the Government had no alternative.

"In the end this country could not afford the low productivity of higher education. The truth of the matter is that five years ago I had people refusing to make the necessary cuts because they said it was not in the public's interests. "Now the public sector is having to focus its mind on what is really important which is no bad thing."

Dr Brosan's last thought and parting shot to the polytechnics as he bowed out was in the words of management consultant Peter Drucker. "Education will be changed by great forces from without. It is not that we cannot afford the high cost of education. We cannot afford its low productivity."

Dr William Turmeau has not yet completed a year as principal of Napier College in Edinburgh, but he can speak with more authority than most on its rise over the past 18 years.

A mechanical engineering graduate who had worked for ten years in Canada, he decided to return to Scotland and take up a career in education. When Napier Technical College opened in 1964, he was ready; he had deliberately gone to Edinburgh, training at Moray House College of Education, to wait for the college to be built.

Dr Turmeau gained his PhD as a part-time degree while lecturing at the college, was promoted to assistant principal, and now principal.

It is likely that he will soon be directing Napier through a fundamental change in its status.

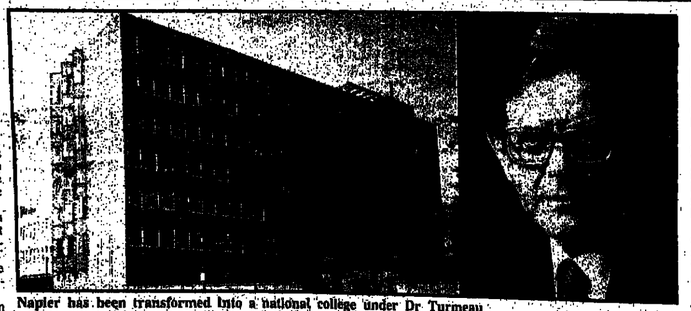
The further education college run by Lothian region is the fifth largest tertiary institution in Scotland, with 4700 full time equivalent students and a staff of more than 830. It is bigger than Heriot-Watt, St Andrews, Dundee and Stirling universities.

Few people would presume to minimize the universities present difficulties. But in one way their position is less invidious than that of Napier, in that the political decisions about their future have been taken, and they must now implement them as best they may.

Napier's future cannot be predicted. Earlier this year, the Scottish Council for Tertiary Education produced a report proposing a dual management system for the tertiary sector, with advanced colleges centrally run, and non advanced colleges run by the regions.

Napier College, and two other regional colleges, should be upgraded to centrally run institutions, it proposed.

But the tertiary council also produced a minority report, which has had vociferous backing since its publication, stating that all colleges should be centrally funded, but run by local authorities.



Napier has been transformed into a national college under Dr Turmeau

Napier battles for self-control

It was initially thought that the Scottish Secretary, who was bequeathed the tertiary council by the former Labour government, would take no action on the report. But it now seems likely that he will implement one of the two blueprints in the near future.

Napier's academic board and college council have voted firmly in favour of the college becoming centrally run. But many staff maintain they would be prepared to back the minority report as an alternative to what they see as an increasingly unsatisfactory status quo.

Their dissatisfaction is understandable after last year's financial battles between they government and Lothian's Labour-dominated council during which Napier's budget yoyoed between £1.1m and £850,000.

"We see a central institution snap its fingers and get £20,000," said one staff member sourly. "But we still don't know our budget for this financial year. Backing the majority report isn't a question of status, it's being able to bargain for scarce resources."

The minority report, agrees Dr Turmeau, suffers from the fact that regions are autonomous, with widely varying financial and political priorities, and national equity of provision would be difficult to achieve.

But he stresses that he has no intention of criticizing Lothian region. "We've prospered under them. They've been very generous with resources. But the college feels if it were given more control over its own resources, it would operate more effectively and quickly."

For, paradoxically, Napier's success under Lothian has transformed it from a regional college in a national college, says Dr Turmeau, with 55 per cent of the students coming from outside Lothian.

Napier has flourished, Dr Turmeau believes, because it has not set itself up in competition with the universities and central institutions.

"Our aim is to produce courses to meet the needs of industry, and to be attractive to school leavers, providing a sound education with long term career prospects. We have broad based vocational courses, crossing traditional boundaries and disciplines, and integrating work experience and academic study. These are relatively new ideas and weren't easy to establish."

Dr Turmeau himself led a new degree in technology with industrial studies, which can lead to a career in engineering, manufacturing and management.

Napier also runs courses in energy engineering, which is an integration of mechanical and electrical engineering, and transportation engineering, based on civil engineering, but dealing with all aspects of transport, such as the design of harbours and airports.

Napier this year had a 15 per cent rise in applications, with 15,000 applications for 1800 places. The number of students finding jobs is well above average, and many students on sandwich courses in a company find permanent employment there.

But Dr Turmeau feels there could still be much better communication between education and industry, and is at present, trying to set up meetings between directors of industry and the principals of the major colleges.

"Scotland is a relatively small country, and we keep telling ourselves we communicate well, but we just don't use the facilities available."

Dr Turmeau is particularly concerned by the lack of communication between schools and advanced education, which brings him back to the question of Napier's future.

"The ultimate system for tertiary education must be totally comprehensive with no barriers between advanced, non advanced and university education, but the first step should be bringing universities and advanced courses together."

Napier, he adds, is highly cost-effective: a university student costs £4,000 to educate, a central institution student around £3,000, a polytechnic student £2,840 and a Napier student £2,500.

"There is no immediate likelihood of close links between the universities and advanced FE. But Napier's status could change within the next few months. It is certain there will be many advocates of Napier remaining under regional control, continuing to be, in an oft-repeated phrase, "the jewel in Lothian's crown."

"Why can't we be the jewel in the crown of advanced FE and glitter that much more brightly?" asks Dr Turmeau.

Olga Wojtas

Geoffrey Jukes asks whether the Soviet Union and China could settle into peaceful coexistence

The delicate balance of Sino-Soviet relations

The Soviet Union and China share the world's longest border. It stretches for something like 7,000 kilometres if we include the border between China and Outer Mongolia, which has a defence agreement with the Soviet Union, and Soviet troops stationed on its territory. Both countries claim the same ideology, and there is a considerable degree of compatibility between their economies. The Soviet Union could and, before the split, did, assist considerably with the industrialization of China, while China in its turn could, and, before the split, did, supply large amounts of textiles, raw materials and fruit, especially to the thinly populated eastern USSR. At one time Khrushchev even asked the Chinese to supply labour for Siberian industries and agriculture; Mao Zedong rejected the proposal on the grounds that it had too "colonial" a look about it, then later raised it himself; but by then the Russians had changed their minds, in fear of Chinese "hordes".

From the early 1920s, there were disputes between the Chinese and Soviet Communists, centring around the basic question whether or not peasants could be the foundation of a socialist revolution, or at most, as the Soviets contended, junior partners to industrial workers. The Chinese revolution prospered only after definitive rejection of Soviet views in 1932, and the relationship thereafter was ambivalent, though a fully-fledged public dispute emerged only in 1963, when the Soviet Union signed the Partial Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, which the Chinese saw as intended (by permitting only underground testing) to make it more difficult for China to become a nuclear power.

After the overthrow of Khrushchev in 1964 and at various times thereafter, the Soviets made overtures to the Chinese, but neither was prepared to yield on any issue of principle, so the dispute continued. In 1969 there was even a small border war, with several hundred casualties, the consequence of which was a large increase in Soviet forces along the border, from about 20 understrength divisions to rather more than double that number, about half of them at full strength. Since then there have been a number of border incidents, but none of them comparable to those of 1969, as both sides have behaved with great circumspection in times of crisis. For example, when the Chinese invaded Vietnam in 1978–79, Soviet forces along the border were not even put on alert. Nevertheless, a major part of the military establishment of both countries is stationed along this border, and there are undoubtedly voices in both capitals which suggest that the burden of defence could be reduced if some form of detente could be negotiated between them.

The territorial issues which divide them are not in fact major. Although much Russian expansion in the Far East was at the nominal expense of China, most of the territory concerned was only under a loose form of Chinese suzerainty, and the Chinese do not ask for it back, apart from minor "rectifications"; they merely ask for an acknowledgment that it was taken by "unequal treaty". This, of course, is a rather embarrassing issue for the Soviets, since much territory along their western borders was taken by similar "unequal treaty" in much more recent times from Finland, Germany, Poland, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Rumania and Japan, not to mention the reincorporation in 1940 of the briefly independent Baltic states. But it were no more than that, the Soviets could perhaps have bitten the bullet for the sake of a settlement.

But there is more to it; on the Soviet side is anger at Chinese presumptuousness in setting up Mao Zedong as the "Lenin of Asia" and splitting the world communist movement; on the Chinese side disillusionment at being treated by western communists just as badly as their forebears were by western capitalists, and the unwillingness of men who made their own revolution to be talked down to by men who merely inherited one. Deeper still on the Russian side is a confused memory of the invaders from east who subjugated their early principedoms, cutting Russia off from Renaissance and Reformation (the Chinese suffered just as much as the Russians, but that did not stop Yevtushenko from writing a poem on the 1969 war which called them the "new Mongols"); and on the Chinese side, of the culture shock suffered over more than a century in which the despised barbarians made an ancient and self-centred civilization the plaything of their technological superiority.

Strategically the dispute has confronted the Soviets with the spectre of a two front war (hence ironic references to China, not Spain, as the "sixteenth member of Nato"), and the Chinese, particularly after the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, that a shared ideology offered less than no protection against Soviet force, which was more readily used against dissident fellow Communists than against the rankest capitalist; while to the Soviets the subsequent border clashes illustrated the vulnerability of their far eastern territories. They therefore doubled the forces on the border, and in so doing reinforced Chinese apprehensions even further. The consequences of that were first, that the Chinese agreed to talk about the border issues (and did so for 11 years; no solution was reached, but the clashes became much less frequent) and second, they put out feelers to the Americans which eventually resulted in the visit by President Nixon in 1972. From then on the escalation in mutual abuse was predictable, but there have been signs from time to time in recent years that each is reevaluating its relationship with the other. In September 1979, for example, a Chinese "national symposium on Soviet literature" for the first time in nearly twenty years distinguished between Soviet domestic and foreign policy, declaring Soviet society to be internally socialist, though aggressively expansionist in foreign policy. If that was meant as an opening for a dialogue, the Soviet intervention in Afghanistan, three months later (but before the symposium proceedings were published) killed it. However, it found a curious echo in a speech made by Brezhnev in Tashkent on March 24 this year, in which he claimed the Soviet Union had never denied the existence of a socialist system in China, though "many aspects of the policy, especially the foreign policy" of the Chinese leaders were "at variance with socialist principles and standards". So each, in effect, now seems prepared to define the other as a strange hybrid, a socialist society with an unsocialist foreign policy; in strict Marxist terms this would be impossible – the force of internal order, not contradict it. Of course, the reflections of Chinese intellectuals are not necessarily government policy, but the fact that they were published suggests they were meant to be aired; and Brezhnev is, of course, rather more than a rumnant academic.

A problem in interpreting the Sino-Soviet relationship concerns the esoteric language used by Marxist-Leninists to talk about the rest of the world. The particular issue here is that the Soviets have offered several times in recent years to establish normal relations with China on a basis of "peaceful coexistence". This offer appears to contain a hidden trap; in Soviet terminology relations between socialist countries are based on "proletarian internationalism", "peaceful coexistence" being reserved for relationships with the non communist world. For the Chinese to accept the Soviet offer would therefore appear to constitute an implicit admission that China is not socialist.

But it is not that simple; in Chinese usage "peaceful coexistence" is the doctrinal basis for their relations with all other countries, not merely with the non communist world. It is therefore not possible for the Soviets to offer China a relationship on Chinese terms without appearing to regard China as a defector from socialism. The speech which Brezhnev made at Tashkent in March was probably more conciliatory than it appeared; it drew back from previous Soviet descriptions of China as a military-bureaucratic state, expressed a desire for normal relations on the basis which China itself prescribes, but attempted to avert the appearance of setting a doctrinal trap by avoiding use of the actual term "peaceful coexistence".

The Chinese response made by a foreign ministry spokesman two days later, was a sharp rejection of Brezhnev's criticisms of itself, and a statement that what China considers important is Soviet deeds. In short, a non committal reaction, but not an outright rejection, carrying the implication that changes in Soviet actions could bring a changed Chinese attitude. The question is what changes in Soviet actions are possible?

Six factors point towards continuance of the split. First, the long history of bad relations and consequent mutual suspicions. Second, the inability of Marxists simply to agree to differ. Third, Chinese experience of Soviet heavy handedness early in the dispute makes them very chary of ever becoming dependent on the Soviets again to anything like the extent they were in the 1950s. Fourth, the benefits expected from western and Japanese technology in the modernization of China. Fifth, the continued Soviet support of Vietnam, which China regards as an upstart. Sixth, the continued Soviet presence in Afghanistan.

However weighty these factors may be, none is insuperable over the next few years. A long history of mutual antagonism has not prevented other countries (for example those of western Europe) from getting together; the present leaders of China inherited rather than created the bad relations, and the same will be true of the next set of Soviet leaders, so both will have more room for manoeuvre. And while Marxists find it difficult to differ politely, Soviet-Yugoslav relations have come pretty close to it after long periods of mutual denunciation. Soviet heavy handedness too can be blamed on former leaders; anyway, the Soviets have no monopoly of it, and have never committed the solecism of actively cultivating Taiwan, as the United States did. The benefits from the western connexion may not materialize as fully or as totally as China's leaders hope; this is the only factor which is substantially in the hands of western governments, and it still remains to be seen how effectively they can handle it. As for Vietnam, the cessation of most western aid after its invasion of Kampuchea has left it with no alternative to reliance on the Soviet Union, but eventually it will have to come to terms with its south-east Asian and Chinese neighbours; it did not fight first the French and then the Americans over almost thirty years in order to become a Soviet satellite and a pariah in its own region. An essential feature of normalization will be withdrawal of troops from Kampuchea; this may well become possible within the next 12 months (a partial withdrawal has already been announced), though a lot depends on whether anything comes of the rather implausible looking coalition between Prince Sihanouk and Pol Pot.

The situation in Afghanistan is more complex, in that no clear win appears yet to be in sight for either the Soviet-backed Karmal government or the various groups of Mujahidin. But unlike Indochina, Afghanistan is of no intrinsic interest to China; the two countries share only a short border in a very inaccessible area, and have no economic, cultural or historical ties to speak of. The Afghan issue is a handy stick with which to beat the Russians and show support for Pakistan, but is essentially a matter of subcontinental rather than Sino-Soviet relations, and China could easily disengage from it if the price were right. It is, after all, telling the Soviets only that they should *withdraw*; it is not requiring them to *lose* first.

There are fewer factors pointing towards rapprochement, but they are not negligible. First, however desirable a recruit China may seem for an anti Soviet line-up, it still claims to be socialist. And while for years Soviet polemic has denigrated China as a "military-bureaucratic" state, Brezhnev in March this year said that China was a socialist country after all, even if its foreign policy had some antisocialist features.

Second, China's neighbours in south and south-east Asia include a number of countries where western interests are heavily involved. Most of these are less attracted by China's antiSovietism (the Soviet Union for them being at most an indirect and distant threat) than apprehensive about the fact that by regional standards China is large, powerful and exercises influence not merely in its own right but through the large overseas Chinese communities. There are therefore actual or potential conflicts of interest which limit the extent to which China's antiSovietism would gain it western or Japanese support in disputes involving, for example, Taiwan, the Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Singapore or even India. With some of these countries China has territorial disputes, and only in the Indian case is its relationship with the Soviet Union even remotely relevant to them. Vietnam apart, if a new set of leaders felt better relations with the Soviets to be appropriate, they would not be deterred from pursuing them by the presumed loss of a western or Japanese support in regional disputes which they are highly unlikely to get, however good their antiSoviet credentials.

Third, the sheer expense of mutual confrontation, aggravated in the Soviet case by demographic factors. Until well into the 1990s the annual "contingent" of young men reaching military age will at best be barely adequate in most years (it will be inadequate in some) to meet the requirements of both industry and the armed forces. Even given the slowing down in the Soviet economic growth rate the labour market will be tight, and there will be pressures on the leadership to reduce armed forces manpower. If these pressures succeed, the most obvious place for reductions is along the Sino-Soviet border, where the Soviet forces, though outnumbered, have a large qualitative advantage in equipment.

Fourth, economic complementarity. Chinese textiles and consumer goods, hard to sell on the saturated markets of the west, can find easier acceptance on the undersupplied Soviet market, while Soviet machinery, though usually not up to best western standards, is often more suitable for a developing country simply because it is cheaper, and less labour saving (important considerations in a country like China, where money is less abundant than labour).

On January 5 this year, Deng Xiaoping said in an interview that China "would be happy if some good results could be attained during negotiations with the USSR", citing the strengthening of Soviet forces on the borders as an obstacle to such results. Without making a direct reply to Deng, Brezhnev in his Tashkent speech the following March emphasized that the Soviet Union had no territorial claims on China, and recalled the time when Sino-Soviet relations had been good. The Chinese reply to Brezhnev in turn rejected his criticisms, but otherwise went no further than to say that China judged the Soviet Union by its actions. What is noteworthy about the exchanges is that neither party is prepared to close the door on the other.

It would not do to exaggerate the short-term significance of these exchanges. In both countries media attacks continue, suggesting that the idea of detente is contentious to elements in both. But Brezhnev's speech was followed up by a *Pravda* editorial on May 20 which pointed out forcibly that bad relations between the two countries benefit only the western enemies of both.

It may not seem likely that two countries so devoted to hurling abuse at each other could ever settle down to "peaceful coexistence." But it did not seem likely that Kissinger and Nixon would visit Peking, until they did, And in 1939, a deal between Hitler and Stalin seemed unlikely, until it happened. In both cases the detente had been preceded by years of mutual abuse.

If it happens, it probably will not happen in the immediate future, as oligarchies don't have to produce quick coups in order to win elections. But unlike some previous Soviet attempts to open a dialogue, Brezhnev's Tashkent speech hasn't encountered a total Chinese rejection, and that is significant in itself.

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The need for fairer methods of assessment

G. Curzon discusses peer reviewing and says scientists should be quicker to apply objective criteria to their own work

At the beginning of this century almost all research at the universities was done without direct financial support from external grant-giving bodies. The situation is now dramatically different. Taking as an example, representative samples of papers in the *Journal of the Chemical Society* describing work done at British universities; only 10 per cent of those published in 1900 included an acknowledgment of external funding. This rose to 50 per cent in 1925 and to 76 per cent in 1975. How these funds are divided up has been largely decided on by the research proposals being individually and anonymously reviewed by academics judged to have relevant expertise and then graded by committees largely composed of other scholars. This is called the peer review system though the status of those making the decisions tends on the whole to be higher than that of the applicants. The system runs counter to general ideas on academic autonomy, but till fairly recently it was largely accepted without much complaint, perhaps because until about a decade ago most grant applications thought to be of reasonable quality had a good chance of getting some support. Now that available funds per eligible investigator have fallen, many proposals that would once have had little difficulty in getting support are being declined. Not surprisingly, as this process has developed there has been increasing interest in questions such as how fair and how efficient are peer reviewing procedures and whether they can be improved.

Concern about these topics led in 1976 to a United States government report on peer reviewing as used by the National Science Foundation. Some commonly voiced disagreements about the system were indicated by Mitroff and Chubin in 1979 in an analysis of the report. They tabulated various opposing points of view ie it is unbiased/biased in favour of an "inner-circle" of applicants or institutions; it favours/opposes new ideas; it should presume general honesty/dishonesty; it should be open/confidential; reviewers are selected fairly/to confirm intentions of fund administators; they should be experts in the field/taken randomly from a panel; they should be told/not told the applicant's name; the applicant should be told/ not told the reviewer's name.

Although the report concluded that peer reviewing was the best available method for assessing grant applications, many scientists had their reservations. For example, a questionnaire on peer reviewing sent by Hensler to applicants for grants to the NSF and also to their reviewers revealed that 53 per cent and 60 per cent respectively of reviewers and unsuccessful applicants felt that new ideas were less likely to be funded and 52 per cent of a sample of reviewers and 61 per cent of a random sample of applicants felt that proposals from well-known institutions were more likely to be accepted. As for other relevant issues raised, while malicious intent on the part of reviewers is probably rare, it is not unreasonable to suspect that rivalry with applicants causes some bias if only because reviewers would tend to be more alert to defects in applications in these circumstances. Another possible influence on peer reviewing was raised (albeit anecdotally) by Michie a few years ago in this journal when he suggested that reviewers can be selected according to whether they are thought likely to confirm fund administrators' intentions.

Not all of these criticisms have much force or can easily be investigated. Not all the remainder are confirmed by serious studies. Indeed, Cole, Rubin and Cole who published an analysis of peer reviewing by the NSF in *Scientific American* in 1977 found no evidence that an "inner circle" of eminent scientists or members of high rank institutions particularly favoured each others' applications. On the contrary, bias was, if anything in the other direction, as reviewers from high rank institutions slightly favoured applicants from lower rank institutions ie these reviewers were most severe towards applicants who were closest to them in "pecking order". Similarly, the group of reviewers who were most severe towards applicants from low rank departments also came from low rank departments! These tendencies suggest that some bias may result from rivalry towards those seen as likely contenders for prestige. Or perhaps some reviewers from low rank departments extrapolate from Groucho Marx's dictum and suspect that departments that might have let them in could hardly be capable of good work.

Much has been made of the effect in academic life of the Matthew effect – so-called from Matthew ch25, v24 (unto everyone that hath shall be given, and he shall have abundance: but from him that hath not shall be taken away even that which he hath). The classical account by Merton in 1968 mainly concerns the disproportionately high rewards given to the work of the well known, relative to those given to similar work done by others. It also designates "a macroscopical Matthew effect" – other advantages deriving from previous achievement eg easier attraction of grants. The former definition may have implications of injustice but not the latter as it seems

reasonable for grant giving bodies to give considerable weight to past achievements. Surprisingly, this does not necessarily occur. Cole et al found that the ratings of NSF grant applications only correlated very weakly with indices of achievement such as rank of PhD granting and current department, number of papers published, number of times they were cited in other papers, rank or age of applicant. The reviewers seem to have been predominately influenced by the research proposed or by less rational criteria rather than by past achievements even though they were asked to consider the ability of applicants to perform the proposed research.

A paper by Cole et al published last year in *Science* raises what is probably the most serious criticism made so far of peer reviewing (at least as used at the NSF) as it suggests that getting a grant depends to a considerable extent on chance. A hundred and fifty applications recently processed by approximately four reviewers were taken (50 from each of three fields; see table). Half the applications in each field had been funded and half had been declined. When they were then reviewed again by new reviewers it appeared that "the fate of an application was roughly half determined by the luck of reviewer draw" as the new reviewers would have led to NSF decisions being reversed in about 25 per cent of cases ie about half the 50 per cent reversal rate that would have been obtained by tossing a coin. As might be expected, reversals were commonest in the middle range where small differences in rating placed proposals above or below a threshold value. However, quite appreciable reversals also occurred at the extremes. It is interesting to note that reversals were at least as common in the "hard science" subjects as they were in economics and that the economists seemed to find it easier to agree with each other on what were the best and the worst applications (ranks 1 and 5).

As might be expected, this study provoked numerous critical letters in *Science*. Most of them claimed that the present system could not be improved or questioned details of statistical treatments. They hardly allay the impression that the discriminatory power of review methods needs to be improved.

How relevant the above investigations are to other grant giving bodies is uncertain. Also, there are some crucial questions they leave unanswered, such as how efficient were the reviewers as predictors of successful outcome of the funded research? Does the poor correlation between peer ratings and past achievements indicate a defect in the present system? ie would funds have been better disposed if more attention had been paid to past achievements?

The peer reviewing studied by Cole et al was performed independently of other reviewers. Most funding bodies (including the NSF) also use review panels. While these may help to put reviewers' opinions in perspective it has been pointed out that they can suffer from irrational consequences of group dynamics such as the disproportionate influence of particularly forceful or fluent members.

Doubts about peer reviewing have led to a number of recent ideas for improving the assessment of grant applications. The most extreme was published last year in *Science* by Roy who proposed that peer reviewing should be completely eliminated. He criticized it on the grounds of cost and doubts about reliability which indeed were soon to be reinforced by the already mentioned work of Cole et al. Roy suggested that instead, research should be funded by departmental grants to be determined by a formula which took into account numbers of higher degree students, numbers of publications and research support from other sources. Like most ideas for altering methods of funding research, this generated a large and critical correspondence. Many substantial points were made, eg that the proposal paid no attention to quality of publications, to the costs of different kinds of research, to its goals or to intradepartmental division of funds. Furthermore, it would eliminate the need for applicants to describe their intended work and while this would save time it would almost certainly blur the definition of objectives and increase their tendency to drift as the work proceeded. While a sophisticated version of Roy's suggestion might be of some help in calculating departmental shares of block grants it hardly seems a convincing alternative to peer review.

Another, less radical suggestion had previously been made by Apirion (Federation Proceedings, 1979) who pointed out that reviewing of research grant applications is almost invariably done by people who are directly involved in research and who are usually selected as reviewers primarily because of knowledge of a particular field rather than because of their skill as reviewers. He proposed a professional class of reviewers by analogy with those who deal with other creative activities such as literature or music. However, the analogy here is imperfect. Reviewers of the arts are intermediaries between their creators and non professional consumers (ie the public) but the immediate consumers of research are themselves involved in its production. Also, art criticism has more in common with the reviewing of scientific papers than of grant applications.

The idea for improving peer reviewing to which most attention has been paid is that it should be reinforced by a numerical measure of the importance of the work already done by the grant applicant. Something better than merely adding up numbers of papers produced is needed here. Such measures of importance are available from the yearly compilations of the Citation Index (published by the Institute of Scientific Information at Philadelphia). The index only enumerates an author's papers if they have been cited by others. Under the reference to each of these papers a list is given of all the other papers which cite it. Thus various citation based measures can be obtained which give indications of the impact of an author's work on other scholars. There are now three different Citation Indices (Science, Social Science and Arts/Humanities). The Science Citation Index probably has most potential as an aid to effective funding. The other two indices are important bibliographical tools but – to take an extreme case – the work of a creative artist could hardly be assessed by the number of references to it in learned journals.

Citation counts measure the importance of research as indicated by how often others find it relevant or useful to their own work. Citations do not measure the difficulty of the problem solved or the elegance of its solution if other scientists judge the problem is trivial.

During the 20 years since Eugene Garfield founded the Science Citation Index, it has been used surprisingly little in assessing applicants for grants. Indeed, there has tended to be suspicion and even hostility towards any suggestion that it might be. The first words uttered by physical or biological scientists on hearing about this possibility are often "the trouble with that is . . .".

In fact, sociologists of science have been using the index for many years and find that many of its more obvious pitfalls are less important than might have been guessed or can easily be corrected. For example, it is frequently pointed out that unrepeatable research or erroneous conclusions might get many (albeit critical) citations but in reality this kind of thing usually gets few citations or is ignored unless it concerns an important controversy or involves what has been called a "fruitful error". It is true that high citation counts could merely reflect directorship of a large group but (like many other criticisms) this also applies to assessments which take number of publications into account – a procedure scorned much but used often. This pitfall can be allowed for by also using citations per paper which gives an indication of the importance of the average paper published by the group.

While citations may underestimate work that is "ahead of its time" such work would also tend to be underestimated by peer review or any other conceivable criterion. Papers published in obscure journals might also be thought to suffer from low visibility but this is hardly likely to affect important work as scientists are usually well aware of the approximate rank order of journals so that what they judge to be important is usually published in the most prestigious and widely read journal attainable. Anyway, abstracting services now ensure visibility to all but the most offbeat journals. A potential defect of assessment by citation (of a rather different kind) is that citation practices might become less impartial if research support was known to be influenced by them. This may well have some marginal effect though, in general, auditory tendencies towards inflation or irrelevance in their reference lists tend to be held in check by editorial action. Even before the Citation Index existed, authors cited their own previous papers if they possibly could. Total citation counts (like other methods of assessing grant applications) must be vulnerable to human self interest and imperfection but as they reflect the combined attitudes of all the workers in a field of research they are less likely to be affected by bias than are the decisions of the much smaller groups involved in peer reviewing. Obviously, it is possible that citations used in isolation from other criteria will fail badly in individual cases. So must also the present methods of assessment which depend on referees who do not always have adequate expertise and who are not invariably balanced and dispassionate.

In order to decide on the usefulness of citation counts for grant application assessment retrospective analyses are needed of groups of grant applications which were fairly similar in their subject areas and given support about ten years ago. The citation records at that time of the applicants' papers published and cited over the previous five to ten

years and the scores awarded to the applications by the grants committee could be compared as predictors of the importance of the work done under the grant. This would in turn be indicated by its citation record over the period since the work was published. The data would reveal whether peer review, citations or some combination of them is the best predictor of successful work. More detailed analysis would be of interest if assessments based on peer review and citations were markedly different. Clearly it would not be fair to use citation criteria for applicants who were too young to have accumulated many citations. In these cases, funding decisions would have to be based on academic record and quality of research proposals.

It seems inappropriate that scientists (of all people) should be so slow in applying objective and numerical criteria to their own work. This may not have been crucial 70 or 80 years ago when research scientists were a small group of (on the whole) rather exceptional people. Nowadays, when numbers are very much larger, when costs are enormously higher and when financial restrictions lead to rejection of many worthwhile grant applications it is particularly important that these should be ranked as effectively as possible by funding bodies. It would be unlikely if present methods of doing this were not capable of improvement.

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Reversals of NSF granting decisions which would have occurred as a result of rating by a second group of reviewers (data from Cole et al, 1981)

Field	Percentage of reversals					
	Ranking of application by second group of reviewers					
	1	2	3	4	5	
Chemical dynamics	26	24	50	40	20	30
Economics	0	5	45	28	42	24
Solid-state physics	16	24	43	28	11	24
Highest rank = 1						Overall % reversals

MILESTONES

Quentin Bell chooses *The Theory of the Leisure Class* by Thorstein Veblen

I discovered Veblen, or rather he was discovered for me, during a wet weekend spent in the country. Yvonne Kapp, who was later to give us an unforgettable portrait of Eleanor Marx, picked up a small volume and read aloud:

Much of the charm that invests the patent-leather shoes, the stainless linen, the lustrous cylindrical hat, and the walking-stick, which so greatly enhance the native dignity of a gentleman, comes of their pointedly suggesting that the wearer cannot when so attired bear a hand in any employment that is directly and immediately of any human use.

We laughed, the observation was quite true enough to be funny; we called for more, got it and rejoiced. *The Theory of the Leisure Class* amuses because it shows us familiar things in an unfamiliar context; it is, to a large extent, a devastating analysis of social ostentation. Veblen deals, as few social theorists deal, with the idea of beauty and shows us to what extent our aesthetic feelings are connected with the display of wealth and, more subtly, with waste and inefficiency. Tolstoy and Roger Fry have both glanced in that direction but neither is so penetrating, so thorough and so acute.

I did not realize at first how important Veblen's ideas were from my particular point of view; indeed it was some time before I read this book from cover to cover but when I did I found that he was teaching me things that I needed to know and that I had, in a sense, been waiting for him. He changed my ideas about art and its history.

Here I must enter into rather a long digression. In the 1930s, like many other people, I found that many of my friends were party members and that nearly all the rest were, like me, fellow travellers. We had a lot of fun and a great deal of misery, we struggled, not only against fascists and sometimes against the police but, more arduously if less heroically, with *Das Kapital*, *Anti Dühring*, the *Theses on Feuerbach* and, if one was really ambitious, *Empirio Criticism*. I learnt to talk about that work in such a confident tone of voice that gullible people believed that I had read every word of it. Amongst those authors whom I *did* read and, I hope, understood there were many who seemed to me to be saying things that were true and important (and that is still my opinion) and this was particularly true of Plekhanov. His *Materialist Conception of History* still seems to me a very fair and convincing essay, and yet Plekhanov was my great stumbling block, for he, unlike most of the nineteenth-century marxists, seemed genuinely interested in literature and the visual arts, and this was my special interest. Like all the marxists whom I have ever read or talked to Plekhanov dealt with art and literature as one entity and I do not think that my old colleague the late Hans Hess was at all inexact when he summed up the teachings of the school by saying: "The visual arts are no different from other subjects such as language and writing."

The "message" of the artefact – using the word "message" in its broadest possible sense – was what concerned the theorists and, up to a point, at all events, we can indeed discover in such works of art statements about the world which can in turn be related to the structure and evolution of society. From that point we went on, or tried to go on, to make categories of commendable artists who were progressive and deplorable artists who were not and this might lead one, as it led Plekhanov, to discover that Monet, because he was insensitive to the condition of humanity, was deplorable.

At this point I fell by the wayside; but in fact I was in disagreement all along, the visual arts can and do express social ideas; but they have other functions. It is the original formulation which I find unacceptable; works of art, in this sense of the word, are radically different from language or writing. A work of art is a material object, and whereas a tune or a poem can be carried in the mind a work of art cannot. In its economic behaviour, it resembles money also, it can be bought and sold, destroyed or repaired. And whereas literature, so far as we know, is a purely human transaction, an arrangement of form and colour can serve the biological needs of other species.

But, even if we confine ourselves to that particular aspect of the history of art I think that the "propagandist" element, however generously we may interpret that word, is by no means the only one which the historian should consider.

Let me adduce a comparatively crude example: imagine the drawing room of a very wealthy man; in it you may discover a Rembrandt or a Renoir; things which can be considered as "symbolizations" of social attitudes; but you may also find a Han pot, a Polynesian mask or a Peruvian head and what things these may symbolize we do not know. We may guess that some kind of statement is being made, as when a foreigner shouts at us in a strange tongue, but nearly all the purport of the message is lost. Why then are the things there? Such things are very expensive; they are, as Veblen puts it, "instruments of conspicuous consumption".

But Veblen takes us further, he allows us in a new way to understand the Potlatch of the American Indian, the competitions of the Gothic builders, the bound foot of the Chinese woman, the burial habits of the labouring classes, the "polite" qualities of second century sculpture or Manchu pottery and the aesthetic revaluation of the technical qualities in artefacts.

Commonly, if not invariably, the honorific marks of hand labour are certain imperfections and irregularities in the lines of the hand made article, showing where the workman has fallen short in the execution of design. The ground of the superiority of hand wrought goods, therefore, is a certain margin of crudeness.

Although Veblen's insights into the history of art are immensely stimulating they are incomplete. If, as I think, Plekhanov ought to have read him he certainly should have read Plekhanov. Also I must admit that one of the reasons which made me hesitate before attempting to read *The Theory of the Leisure Class* from end to end was the strong suspicion that Veblen would talk a lot of nonsense before he was through, and indeed, when I did make that effort, I found much that was unacceptable and a little that seemed downright silly. In the end I cannot honestly call myself a Veblenian. For me he does not seem to come up with all the answers but with what astonishing force and humour he puts the right questions.

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Why history needs defending

J. M. Bourne argues that the future looks bleak for historical knowledge

Since the middle of last year when the University Grants Committee made its now infamous financial pronouncements universities throughout the country have been struggling to come to terms with their straitened circumstances. The process of adjustment has been accompanied by a welter of rumour, suspicion and recrimination. At worst the cuts seem to be an act of spiteful vengeance by a hostile government, at best a random act of violence in the war against inflation, but equally destitute of any semblance of a coherent policy for higher education to meet the country's future social and economic needs. The Government was seemingly intent only on saving money without thought or proper concern for the consequences. Though the very manner in which the UGC distributed the reduced funds at its disposal had inevitable implications for some disciplines, elsewhere the UGC's advice was minimal and general. Individual universities and the faculties and departments which compose them were left to work out their own destinies in what was essentially a difficult and thankless exercise in damage control.

It was in this atmosphere that a group of university historians, meeting under the auspices of the Historical Association at Birmingham University in April this year, decided to form a "History at the Universities Defence Group" to defend and maintain the scope and quality of the teaching and scholarly study of history in British universities. The group is not primarily concerned with fighting the cuts or with preserving jobs: its concern is with the subject of history (in all its branches) and with academic functions discontinued, or likely to be discontinued, as a result of current policies. Without knowledge of the overall picture it was feared that certain important aspects of history might be allowed to drop out of teaching and research in British universities, not only locally or regionally but even nationally. In May, 48 universities were asked to supply the defence group with information about the actual and anticipated loss of staff, research expertise and specialist teaching and the withdrawal of graduate or undergraduate courses as a result of staff losses. Their returns represent the first account of the overall impact of the cuts to date, at least as far as they have affected the teaching of history in major undergraduate history departments. The picture with regard to the often separate departments of economic or social history is less clear, as is the fate of historians in graduate research institutes or in departments not devoted primarily to the teaching of history, such as politics, modern languages or theology who together make up about a third of the names in the Institute of Historical Research's "Teachers of History", which may be said to constitute the academic profession of history in the universities. But the defence group has obtained at least a partial understanding of the position in every major school of history other than at Oxford University.

Since January 1981 63 posts (40 permanent, 23 temporary) have been abolished or frozen in the 50 departments of the 37 universities for which detailed figures are already available. This represents a loss of about 8 per cent of the total number of posts which existed in those same 50 departments in December 1980. It seems certain that a further 35.5 posts (29.5 permanent, 6 temporary) will be lost by September 1984, though these may be mitigated to some extent by the temporary reemployment of those taking voluntary early retirement (as at Southampton). There is, however, a possibility of the loss of another 20 permanent posts, the future of which has yet to be determined. On the best interpretation of these figures, by September 1984 12 per cent of the posts (permanent and temporary) existing in these 50 departments in December 1980 will have been abolished or frozen, with the prospect of an ultimate loss as high as 15 per cent. The only universities which reported new posts since December 1980 were Bangor (which still had a net loss), Bristol and Cambridge. The only university which anticipated any new appointments was Southampton. Most departments fully expect that any other losses they may suffer through promotion, resignation or death, before September 1984 will not be replaced. Prospects beyond that date are viewed almost everywhere with deep concern. There is abundant evidence here to confirm the view recently expressed at Birmingham University by the director of the central services unit for universities and polytechnic careers and appointments service, Mr H. B. Putt, that graduate employment opportunities in higher education are worse than any other part of the public sector.

Thus far staff losses have been effected by freezing vacant posts, voluntary early retirement and internal redeployment. There have been no compulsory redundancies, though these would certainly have been unavoidable in some departments without the generous spirit of older scholars who have felt a moral obligation to retire in order to protect their younger colleagues. In some departments the prospect of compulsory redundancies seems improbable, but elsewhere the situation remains unclear and the possibilities are very real, especially in departments with a dearth of the "over 50s". The loss of posts has been haphazard and accidental and the consequent loss of research expertise and specialist teaching skills completely unpredictable and so far unrepaired. The random loss of expertise has been most serious at the extremes of the time span covered by most undergraduate courses, in early medieval history (British and European) and late modern history (especially twentieth-century British). Most departments have managed to cover staff losses in general outline courses, though in some cases only by amalgamating previously separate courses in British and European history. The loss of optional and special subject courses, the province of the specialist teacher, has been far more dramatic. Twenty-three universities have suffered the loss of at least one of these courses, with the certain prospect of more to follow. It is difficult to generalize about the effects of this. Some pruning of the luxuriant growth of optional and special courses which has typified syllabuses for the past 20 years may be no bad thing. In some cases the loss of courses has been an opportunity to provide a less varied but more coherent and rational syllabus, but elsewhere the loss has been most damaging and departments face the prospect of reorganization with inadequate resources. This is an inevitable consequence of the dropping of courses not because they are unimportant, uninteresting or unpopular but because the person who teaches them leaves or is old enough to be retirable. There also appears to be a very real danger to subjects such as African history, American history, Canadian history, Japanese history and intellectual history. Specialist departments of the history of science and the history of art were early into the fray, but seem to be fighting back effectively. Little has been heard about the fate of economic history as a specialism, but there has been active discussion of increased cooperation and some actual collaboration between economic history and "straight" history departments at Loughborough, Nottingham and Sheffield. The loss of entire degree courses has been restricted to those of which history is only a component. The behavioural science degree at Aston, of which economic and social history was a compulsory first-year course, has been abolished. It seems certain that the joint school of English and history and the joint school of history and history of art at Bristol will be closed. The degree in medieval history and medieval Latin at Liverpool has been abolished. The proposed new history and anthropology and history and sociology degrees at Manchester have been given zero entry quotas and, in effect, withdrawn. Medieval history with archaeology at St Andrews has been abolished, and the part-time postgraduate course in Scottish studies at Stirling deferred. What is more difficult to ascertain is the extent to which the expertise which has been retained matches that of the available library resources. Various universities have specialized in aspects of history and have built up extremely valuable libraries. If they now lose the experts in these specialisms their library resources will be wasted and most probably become run down even though the same specialism may be taught at another university without the requisite library resources.

There is obvious cause for concern in the pattern of cuts described. There is a great deal of unease about "early retirement". It seems highly undesirable for any university to retire its most distinguished historians while they are still in their prime. It also seems undesirable to end up with departments in which nobody will be due to retire in the 10 years after 1984. The thought of stagnant departments troubles many people and the defence group is actively considering the provision of some means by which academic exchanges on a temporary or even a permanent basis may be conducted. It is hoped to announce details at a later date. More serious still is the danger of having no recruitment into the academic profession for years resulting in a "lost generation" of university teachers. Some syllabus changes seem inevitable and the profession may once more be forced to address itself to the problem of setting out the "common core" of historical knowledge which all students of history should know. This will not be easy, and to some unpalatable, but if present trends continue the prospects of satisfactory courses of *a la carte* options seems increasing remote. No mortal blows have yet been struck, but the wounds are serious and unhealed. There is no reason to believe that history has so far been worse affected than any other major subject of study and has patently suffered less than many. What the evidence does show is that not even a "strong" subject like history, with a generally acknowledged high standard of staff and students, has been safe from dislocation, loss of talent and the demoralization of its practitioners. In the past two years history has seen significant loss and freezing of posts; there is little "fat" left and in the next two years we are likely to hear the unpleasant crunch of breaking bones.

Contemporary engraving of the dedication of *The Recuyell of the Historyes of Troye* by Caxton to Margaret of York, from the Henry E. Huntington Library. It is reproduced in *Caxton in Focus* by Lotte Hellinga which is produced this week by The British Library at £6.95.

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BOOKS

'An awful ambition and fiery passions'

by Norman Gash

Benjamin Disraeli: Letters
volume one: 1815–1834;
volume two: 1835–1837
edited by J. A. W. Gunn, John Matthews, Donald M. Schurman and M. G. Wiebe
University of Toronto Press, £37.50 per volume
ISBN 0 8020 5523 0 and 5587 7

The project for printing Disraeli's letters has involved an impressive mobilization of academic resources. After ten years of preparation and encyclopaedic research, here are the first two volumes, edited with meticulous scholarship and handsomely printed.

There are, we are told, over 10,000 letters extant in Disraeli's writing, exclusive of dictated letters, government papers and other documents signed by him. These two volumes contain 691 of them. We can assume therefore that at least another 26 volumes will be needed. It is a great, almost Cyclopean enterprise to be devoted to one person's literary remains, and perhaps it may not be idle to consider the justification for such a prodigious effort and expense. As an author Disraeli was not in the front rank of Victorian novelists. As prime minister he had less effect on the events of his time than Liverpool, Grey, Peel, Palmerston, Gladstone or Salisbury. Are his letters then valuable for their literary quality or their historical interest?

Undoubtedly many of the descriptions – of dinner-parties, of people, of conversations, of scenes in the House of Commons – are immensely readable. Spiced with wit and exaggeration they entertain because they are literary creations rather than sober historical reports. Yet an edition which includes all surviving letters cannot be aiming only at literary appeal. Take this, for example, which comes encased in twenty lines of editorial annotations:

> My dear Sir. Be so kind as to let Mr Murray know the moment Mr Constable arrives, as he wishes to have the pleasure of calling upon him. Ever my dr. Sir, yrs. B. Disraeli.

Now it would be grossly unfair to suggest that there are many of these trivialities. Nevertheless, the policy of printing every available letter means that these are not volumes to be read merely for entertainment. The historian, one may surmise, will get more from them than the seeker after pure literature, since Disraeli's interests, by the period covered in the second volume, were already mainly political.

From a historian's point of view, however, it is unsatisfactory to be presented with the letters from Disraeli and not those to him. This is *Hamlet* without the supporting cast. We have to imagine these lesser characters from the words flung in their direction or from the small walking-on parts they are occasionally given in the footnotes. If any significant series of letters has been lost, the balance becomes even more lopsided. It is only in footnotes, for instance, that we are given any information about Henrietta Sykes, Disraeli's mistress from 1833 to 1836. Apart from a few casual references (the most revealing of which comes in any case from a diary) there is virtually nothing in the correspondence from which one could guess the relationship. Yet there are in existence some fifty or sixty Bolton/Sykes letters to Disraeli which would give readers a full story.

With these reservations, however, one can understand both the choice of Disraeli as a subject and the decision to print only the letters he sent and not those he received. He may not have been a great statesman or a great author. Yet how many prime ministers have written novels? For that matter, how many novelists have become prime ministers? The fascination of Disraeli is the man himself. His remarkable career was, so

Disraeli aged twenty-eight, by C. Martin, taken from Sarah Bradford's Disraeli (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £14.95).

to speak, an emanation of his own personality. He was his own creation: the hero of a story that outfictions fiction. There was nobody remotely like him in the politics or literature of the nineteenth century. It is what the letters tell us about him that is the justification of the Disraeli project. These volumes are to be read not as *belles lettres*, though there are some highly entertaining letters in them; not as history, though they will be indispensable to the historian; but because they display, better than anywhere else, the phenomenon of Disraeli himself.

Much of the entertainment derives from the simple fact that the letters were meant to be read singly and in isolation and we now see them together and in relationship. The result is a rich vein of unintended comedy. This is never more obvious than in Disraeli's early attempts to secure election to Parliament which for sheer audacity are hard to beat. In October 1832, for example, he tells the electors of Wycombe that he wishes to complete the work of the Reform Act and will support the ballot, triennial elections, abolition of taxes on knowledge, economy and retrenchment – the conventional radical programme of the day. Ten weeks later he assures the farmers and freeholders of co. Bucks that he will resist "that spirit of rash and experimental legislation" which is hurrying "this once glorious empire" towards "civil convulsion". By March 1833 he is back in the old radical costume again, expressing to the Marylebone electorate a modest hope that he may assist in "that great system of amelioration which all honest men must desire". In April 1833 he tells Helen Blackwood "I am not a Tory, and never intended to be one". However, "I am a primitive Tory", he informs Howick in February 1835, and in August 1835 he announces that "I have joined the Conservatives because it is the party in the State with which I most nearly coincide".

In case we should miss the nicer ironies, the editors are always on hand. "I never kept a diary in my life," Disraeli assures Lady Blessington in September 1834. "The first date in the 'Mutilated Diary'", observe the editors blandly, "is 1 September 1833". In November 1835 Disraeli offers a pamphlet for publication to Bentley, adding in a postscript that "this communication has been made to no other publisher and is strictly confidential". "D[israeli] had, in fact", the editors remind us, "already offered it to Murray". In a letter to *The Times* Disraeli pointed out that he was "absent from England during the discussions on the Reform Bill. The Bill was virtually, though not formally, passed when I returned to my country in the spring of 1832." An implacable footnote sets the record straight. "D had in fact returned to England from his tour of the Middle East at the end of October 1831".

Perhaps the most remarkable of the fibs comes in December 1834 when, at the start of Peel's Hundred Days, Disraeli was trying to get the support of Lyndhurst, the Lord Chancellor, for an opening as Conservative candidate. He told Lyndhurst that he had just received an offer from Lord Durham, the leading radical peer, of a seat in the new parliament for the mere legal expenses. The tactics of the counter-offer are not unknown in other walks of life besides politics; but Disraeli added artistically that "I wd. sooner lose with the Duke and yourself than win with Melborne and Durham, but win *or* lose, I must, I cannot afford to be neutral". It was this episode which prompted Greville's well-known remark that if Disraeli was hesitating between Durham and the radicals on the one side and Conservatives on the other, "he must be a mighty impartial personage". But the joke (revealed here for the first time), is that it is in the highest degree unlikely that Durham had offered him a seat. True, the previous month Disraeli had asked Durham to back him as radical candidate for Aylesbury but to this appeal Durham had merely returned a non-committal expression of goodwill. That he subsequently offered Disraeli a parliamentary seat is hardly credible. "No such letter has been found", note the editors sedately. "Durham's response to D's earlier request for help suggests that such evidence of a change of heart would be difficult indeed to locate." No doubt Disraeli reckoned that the chances of Durham and Lyndhurst comparing notes in the House of Lords were not very great.

There are other sources of amusement besides Disraeli's habit of touching up the truth. It is hard to read without a smile the series of letters to Austen, the lawyer who lent so much money to Disraeli and found so much difficulty in getting it back. Disraeli was fertile with explanations if not with payments; and his excuses form an ingenious set of variations on a traditional theme. Disraeli explaining, as though it made all the difference, that he was not *unwilling* to repay, merely *unable*; Disraeli positively on the point of depositing a draft in Austen's bank but somehow not quite succeeding; Disraeli reproaching Austen for impatience; Disraeli preaching the virtues of true friendship – all this is Dickensian comedy of the highest quality, though not perhaps at the time to the recipient. He, poor man, could not have appreciated that to few of his other correspondents at this time was Disraeli devoting such artistry. It is because of this artistry, no doubt, that the lawyer, despite the absence of his own letters, appears as a kind of ghostly, reconstituted figure in the multitude of other correspondents who are merely names.

Then, for the amateur of the flowery, there are the letters couched in that special style adopted by Disraeli when writing to ladies on whom he wished to make an impression. To Lady Blessington, the authoress, for example, "has that pen, plucked assuredly from the pinion of a bird of Paradise, been idle or creative?"; or to Helen Blackwood, "your blessed handwriting fell like an Iris on the dark cloud of life". How quick, too, he was to follow up his introduction to Mary Anne Lewis in April 1832 with an arch little note a few days afterwards. It was an acquaintanceship he did well to cultivate. Five years later her husband brought him in as MP for Maidstone and two years after that he married Lewis's wealthy widow.

Yet among the many women to whom Disraeli writes, it is his relationship with his own sister which constitutes the real mystery. That his letters to her form the largest single category in these two volumes may be an accident of preservation. It is the terms on which he wrote to his "dearest Sa" that catches one's attention. Given the different conventions for the expression of affection between brothers and sisters in the early nineteenth century, one might be disposed to attach little importance to the habitual mode of address between them of "dearest" and "my dearest". Yet there is one letter here, that of 20 July 1831, which conveys considerably more than conventional brotherly intimacy or Disraelian hyperbole.

> Alas! my beloved! if you are lost to me, where, where, am I to fly for refuge! I have no wife, I have no betrothed . . . Yes! my beloved! be my genius, my solace, my companion, my joy! We will never part.

A contemporary parallel perhaps can be found in Macaulay's constant letters and amorous language to his two favourite sisters, particularly the letter to Margaret of 8 October 1830. There is a similar mystery about Disraeli's relations with Sarah: the greater since, unlike Macaulay, Disraeli had no lack of physical relationships with other women.

It might be, of course, that Disraeli needed his sister as an admiring audience before whom he could dramatize, as though on a stage, his successes and achievements. He did undoubtedly write many of his letters, and not merely to Sarah, in the histrionic vein. To do so, indeed, seems to have been for him a profound necessity, which itself is of psychological interest. Thus, to Sarah, in 1834: "I have had great success in society this year in every respect. I am as popular with the Dandies as I was hated by the second rate men. I make my way easily in the highest set." A young man's boasting to a favourite sister? If so, what are we to make of the following? "Distinguished myself very much in the election of Burden for Westminster: the success mainly attributable to myself, proposed and organised the youth of the Carlton, including all the nobility, fashion and influence of our party to canvass." That was written not in a letter but in his diary, a document intended (as far as one can judge) for nobody's eyes but his own. Did he have to reassure himself? Or was this an unselfconscious, almost oriental, rejoicing in his own, suitably exaggerated, exploits? Certainly the traditional English qualities of reticence and understatement were not for him.

Even this is not the whole picture. There was an inner Disraeli, not easily divined from his correspondence; indeed, not easily divined at all. For this the "mutilated diary" of 1833–37 provides a few clues. "My life has not been a happy one. Nature has given me an awful ambition and fiery passions . . . My mind is a continental mind. It is a revolutionary mind." There are not many remarks like these; and it is not easy to tell whether they came from passing moods or rare moments of self-vision. Yet, out of the body of Disraelian correspondence in these two volumes, an unmistakable personality begins to take shape. Granted that most of the letters are deceptive in the sense that they were written to create an illusion. As the editors observe in their preface, with each of his correspondents Disraeli projected for himself a special role. Yet from the repertory of separate roles emerges a portrait of the actor himself, a kind of unwitting self-portrait. Here clearly was a man of many talents, of driving ambition; a supreme egoist, not merely persistent and unencumbered by scruples, but consumed by a passion to succeed. Moreover, success for him meant breaking into the charmed circle of parliamentary membership which alone would make possible the power and distinction he craved. It was for this that he threw himself with consistently renewed energy and courage into every fresh role and every fresh opportunity. There was naiveness and youthful folly in Disraeli's conceits and miscalculations; but there was nothing youthful about his relentless determination to get to the top. The single-minded pursuit of a political career involved him in contradictions and inconsistencies that would have embarrassed an ordinary man; they did not trouble Disraeli. If the past got in the way of the present, so much the worse for the past: what had passed away could always be explained away. It was an exhilarating but hazardous road he travelled.

Had he been – as he so nearly was – arrested for debt in the spring of 1837, his parliamentary prospects might have been damaged irretrievably. But luck – and the women – were with him. That same year brought him to the start of a public career, a seat in the House of Commons. "I am now as one leaving a secure haven for an unknown sea. What will the next twelve months produce?" he asked in his diary. He need not have been Disraeli had not the challenge of the unknown brought its thrill; but he was still a young man in a hurry and he had still to learn that in life haste can be a handicap.

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BOOKS

'I was right'

What Next in the Law
by Lord Denning
Butterworths, £9.95 and £5.95
ISBN 0 406 17601 9 and 17602 7

Lord Denning retired in September 1982, at the age of 83, having presided for 20 years over the civil Court of Appeal as Master of the Rolls, and having served 38 years as a judge.

This book played a material part in accelerating his long-delayed departure from the Bench; when first published, in May, it was found to contain libellous allegations that black jurors in last year's Bristol riot trials had been bribed in favour of black defendants. The book was hurriedly withdrawn for alterations, and Lord Denning publicly apologized. Even his fiercest detractors would not have wished his distinguished career to end on such a sad note, but Lord Denning is no stranger to controversy and it is unlikely that the verdict of history will be much affected by this episode.

The book is about law reform, and the author's unique span of professional experience, combined with his undisputed learning, promises a rich haul of insights. Lord Denning obviously relishes his status as the survivor of a past era. Thus a section on road traffic, sub-headed "Motors are a dangerous thing", begins, characteristically: "When I was a boy, all movement on the road was by horse or on foot. There were the farm waggons going slowly along . . ", and so on, for nearly half a page. Most of the book (like so many of Lord Denning's judgments) is written in this rambling vein, which is in turn engaging and infuriating. And many of his historical interpretations ("King James II was a bad King") and his social observations (viz the supposed decline in racial homogeneity and educational standards, which prompts him to suggest that those on jury lists should be selected, like magistrates) are worryingly simplistic. Worrying, given Lord Denning's oft-stated view that judges should decide cases with reference to their own conceptions of justice and public policy.

This much-discussed "result-orientation" of Lord Denning's judicial philosophy divides the world into at least three camps: practising lawyers, who regard his creative efforts as a menace to legal certainty; trade union activists (and many left-wing politicians) who think, probably rightly, that Lord Denning's individualistic ideology has worked on balance to their considerable disadvantage; and much of the general public (most of whom could probably not even name another living judge) who revere him as a champion of liberty. All three categories will find useful ammunition in this book. Lord Denning himself hotly denies being "politically motivated", though he concedes that "some decisions are fraught with political consequences". In his 1980 Dimbleby Lecture (reproduced in the book) he averred that, in matters of personal freedoms, "Someone must be trusted. Let it be the judges." But the problem is, of course, that in such matters of liberty, and in reaching decisions which have "political consequences", blind faith is no substitute for accountability. Lord Denning is living justification of his own scepticism about the wisdom of enacting a new Bill of Rights.

A judge can advocate in a book many things that he should not seek to advance on the Bench (though the latter inhibition never had much effect on Lord Denning). This book contains many trenchant observations about, for example, the manifold shortcomings of the legal aid system, the deplorable state of the laws of libel, and the problem of fraud trials ("tried by Circuit Judges and a jury of nondescripts"). He recants on his decision to order identification of Granada Television's "mole" in the *British Steel* case, but not on the *Harman* contempt decision ("The lady doth protest too much, methinks"). In another context he defends one of his own dissenting judgments: "It is no doubt presumptuous of me, but I still think I was right. I hope that in the future others may come to think so too. That is one of my reasons for writing this book."

Perhaps the most interesting part of the book comes at the beginning, where the author writes about "some great reformers" – Bracton, Coke, Blackstone (a description of whose declining years is captioned, eloquently, "Too fat"). Bentham, who attacked Blackstone's *Commentaries*, is dismissed as "the most pretentious person who ever lived", even though he is recorded as having idolized another of the author's heroes, Lord Mansfield. Lord Denning conveys the impression (though he does not quite say so) that he sees himself as a member of this heroic line – and who knows, he may even be right.

Gavin Drewry

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Liberal alliances

The Real World of Liberalism
by David Spitz
University of Chicago Press, £14.00
ISBN 0 226 76973 9

If the arguments contained in this book were to be reduced to a bare set of propositions they might be thought simple-minded, even banal. Unfortunately the author's wife, who helped prepare the book for the press after David Spitz's death in 1979, has provided just such a hostage to his would-be critics in the form of a "credo for liberals" in place of Spitz's own unwritten conclusion; this takes the form of a set of 10 commandments for liberals:

> esteem liberty above all values, even over equality and justice;
>
> respect people, not property, but do not ignore the positive role of property in promoting human well-being;
>
> distrust power, even that of majorities;
>
> distrust authority;
>
> be tolerant;
>
> adhere to democracy;
>
> revere truth and rationality;
>
> accept the inevitability of change; do not disparage compromise;
>
> above all, retain the critical spirit.

The appended glosses gleaned from notes left behind by the author do little to breathe life into these somewhat schoolmasterly injunctions.

Happily the rest of the book, which comprises essays and reviews dating mainly from the 1970s, expresses a more questing spirit. It is true that Professor Spitz was a man with a mission and that his advocacy of a particular view of liberalism is plain on every page, but the pleasures of this book – and they are considerable – lie in the chase rather than the kill. Spitz's eloquence and conceptual lucidity deserve the tribute his wife pays them; and his controversial attempt to reassert the "authentic" liberalism of John Stuart Mill will leave his opponents in no doubt about the grounds of their disagreement.

Mill is the presiding genius of the book. Though only one piece is devoted entirely to Mill, he is invoked in all of them. The New Left, the New Right, Robert Nozick, and B. F. Skinner are all brought to judgment in the court of Mill's *On Liberty*. (Conspicuous by its absence is any extended treatment of John Rawls's *A Theory of Justice*.) Spitz's "real world of liberalism" is a carefully marked out area purged of free-market individualism, New Left Marxism, behaviourism, and libertarianism. It is a world in which the claim for individual liberty is reconciled with the realities of late twentieth-century industrial democracy. The book stands or falls, therefore, on its treatment of Mill.

Mill's essential position, it is argued, can be rescued both from its many critics and from certain weaknesses in *On Liberty* itself. First the critics. One of the points Spitz raises is the accusation that "Mill poses a false dichotomy between self-regarding and other-regarding acts"; in short, that in his concern to establish an area of individual discretion which is properly beyond the jurisdiction of society or the state, Mill erects a distinction which is theoretically and empirically weak. On the one hand, Mill's critics claim, the freedom to indulge in purely self-regarding acts is a trivialization of freedom. An act which affects only one person will probably not affect him very much. On the other hand, Mill's distinction is incapable of providing a practical criterion for judging whether individual acts may affect others, since this can only be known when the consequences of those acts have occurred. More broadly, the argument runs, Mill postulates an unworkable distinction between the individual and social dimensions of human behaviour.

Spitz concedes that the distinction between self-regarding acts and other forms of conduct which have obvious social consequences is often blurred. But Mill's critics, he claims, betray "a lack of psychological insight into what constitutes the unique concerns of an individual. To him it may be his own 'private' life and nothing else that is the very axis of his claim to personality." Besides, Mill allowed for a measure of blurring between the individual and the social in his suggestion that he was concerned to distinguish between acts which *primarily* concern individuals and those which obviously impinge on others. It is a qualified not an absolute distinction. For Spitz, then, those (like Robert Paul Wolff) who picture Mill as an advocate of extreme and irresponsible individualism have simply caricatured his argument.

Nevertheless, Spitz recognizes certain weaknesses in Mill's position. An example: Spitz considers Mill's assumption that since liberty is the absence of restraint, it follows that any interference by society, whether through law or through its moral code, constitutes an invasion of liberty. In a purely abstract sense, Spitz agrees, this may be so. But tin is a passage which is repeated word for word several times in the book) Spitz points out that "law may, in a particular situation, operate as a restraint on a restraint: by restraining some, it may give others n degree of freedom they would not otherwise possess". Such is the rationale for a whole range of interventionist measures from progressive taxation to civil rights legislation.

It might be said that this concedes a good deal to Mill's critics. Spitz, however, rests his case ultimately (as did Isaiah Berlin in *Four Essays on Liberty*) on Mill's advocacy of an open society in which individual choice and freedom of expression were fundamentally guaranteed. No one concerned for individual liberty will want to deny the strength and contemporary relevance of this position. But it is characteristic of Spitz's approach that he grants Mill the benefit of the doubt on important matters, while he staunchly concedes nothing to the arguments of others which he finds distasteful. His critical riposte, for example, to *A Critique of Pure Tolerance* by Herbert Marcuse, Barrington Moore, and Robert Paul Wolff is the tenable one that an indictment of democratic practice need not entail an indictment of liberal democratic theory, a point which he makes also with reference to the elite theory of democracy. But this argument has its limits. How far can one go in recognizing that the actual conditions of society fail to conform to the ideals which purportedly underpin it before the ideals themselves must come under scrutiny?

Spitz's refusal to face this issue fully vitiates his fervent appeal for a reassertion of "authentic" liberalism, powerful as it is. In the end, Spitz is a little too convinced of his case to be quite convincing.

Richard Crockatt

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John Dunn's *The Political Thought of John Locke: an historical account of the argument of the "Two Treatises on Government"*, first published in 1969, has been issued as a paperback by Cambridge University Press at £7.50.

Fifty years on

Father of the House: fifty years in politics
by John Parker
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £10.50
ISBN 0 7100 9220 2

John Parker is a respected and senior figure in the House of Commons. He is the "Father of the House" by virtue of being the member with the longest continuous record of service: he has sat since 1935.

Mr Parker was briefly a junior minister in the Attlee Government and through his involvement with the New Fabian Research Bureau came into contact with many of the leading socialist thinkers of the interwar years. He is in a position to write authoritatively about some fascinating topics of interest to historians and students of politics. His book is, as he explains, "an account of some of the events in which I have been interested and played an active part".

The book is structured chronologically. It is readable, largely because it is clearly written and extremely brief; seven of the 27 chapters are less than three pages in length and many of the others are not much longer. A number of observations come across as interesting and well made. Nevertheless, it is a disappointing book since the author largely fails to make use of his experience either to comment authoritatively on the events recounted or to explain his own actions. He presents details of what he did, sometimes with the odd anecdote or interesting detailed observation, but rarely enlivens the text with his own reflections on what happened. The reader is presented with a diary of events in narrative form.

This habit of recounting what he did without explaining why he did it is, at times, irritating. For example, we are told that after spending two years as Ellen Wilkinson's parliamentary private secretary in the wartime coalition "I was advised by Jim Griffiths to resign and adopt a more critical attitude to the government. This I did." The reasons for accepting this advice are not given. Mr Parker recounts that he was one of two Labour Members on the 1944 Speaker's Conference on Electoral Law to support the Alternative Vote. "It was a view I was soon to reject." Why? Even his recollection of the events which led him to support the Labour Party is embodied in one of the chapters of under three pages.

Mr Parker's treatment of Parliament is especially disappointing. He occasionally recounts some of his experiences as a constituency Member and he gives a couple of chapters on specific Private Members' Bills. His reflections on the House of Commons are contained in two chapters totalling less than 10 pages in all, in which he covers the change in the socioeconomic background and the sartorial taste of MPs and makes a plea for better pension facilities for defeated MPs. There is nothing in this that is new, or that reflects his extensive parliamentary experience. He offers no reflections on his own role as a Member of Parliament – what he has achieved, what he believes the function of a backbench MP to be – nor on the relationship, let alone the changing relationship, between the House of Commons and the Government. There is no mention of the procedural and behavioural changes of recent years.

Mr Parker makes no attempt to synthesize the conclusions he has drawn from 50 years in politics. The penultimate chapter constitutes the diary which he kept during a visit to the Soviet Union in 1945 and the concluding chapter comprises obituaries written by him of three of his friends. Given that he has chosen to title his work *Father of the House*, this is a lost opportunity.

Philip Norton

Philip Norton is senior lecturer in politics at the University of Hull.

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BOOKS

A wretched life

The Life of John Berryman
by John Haffenden
Routledge & Kegan Paul, £15.00
ISBN 0 7100 9216 4
Poets In Their Youth: a memoir
by Eileen Simpson
Faber, £10.50
ISBN 0 571 11925 5

John Berryman claimed that "the artist is extremely lucky who is presented with the worst possible ordeal which will not actually kill him". Dr Haffenden's authorized biography painfully details the wretched life from whence arose the sometimes radiant flower of Berryman's verse.

The story proper opens with the suicide of his father and precipitate remarriage of his mother when Berryman was 11 years old. He seems thereafter to have striven to construct an identity of which his ambitious mother would approve, while perpetually fearing that the inheritance of an ineffectual father would undermine his efforts. He adopted his stepfather's name and mannerisms, only to be haunted by the fact that the John Berryman persona hid an earlier existence as plain John Smith. A "workaholic", he became a noted winner of school and college prizes, a brilliant university lecturer, a respected biographer, an interesting fiction writer, a fine essayist, and above all a prolific poet of international stature. Yet neither these successes nor the wealth they belatedly brought him could allay his anxieties.

His three marriages and rampant skirt-liftings were accompanied by hatred of women and dread of his own homosexual tendencies. His remarkable bursts of creativity were followed by asylum sojourns, protracted psychiatric treatments, and intensive self-analyses. His prodigious talents as writer and teacher ran alongside an equally exaggerated incompetence in other aspects of his life (even when jumping to his death from the Washington Avenue Bridge in Minneapolis he contrived to miss the river and hit the bank). His addictions included coffee, cigarettes (three packs a day), drugs (the baleful litany of brand names covered Phenobarbital, Haldol, Vivactic, Tuinol, Serax, Librium, Thorazine, Nembutal, and Dexedrine), and alcohol (to the point of stuporous bedwettings in his later years). Other neurotic symptoms included fainting fits, insomnia, hypochondria, lifelong anxiety about going bald, mother-fixation, extreme introversion, outrageous egocentricity (the hospitalization of wives occasioning resentment rather than compassion), and an extended infatuation (finally consummated) with suicide. Undergirding all these personality defects was a profound conviction, which no amount of talent could assuage, that he was essentially unlovable.

From this racy tale Haffenden has built an ample but lustreless text. Omitting photographs and footnotes from what is intended as a standard biography was a mistake. More unsettling is the extent to which information outweighs analysis. Indeed, so heavily has our author drawn upon his subject's own utterances that the result more often resembles an annotated autobiography than an outsider's dispassionate assessment. Equally suspect are those portions of the text drawing on the testimony of his mother, an inveterate self-deceiver. Haffenden readily accepts her claim that husband number one was unfaithful and that she remarried for the sake of the children: yet even our poet, ever ready to take his mother's side, occasionally wondered if his father's suicide was prompted by Mrs Berryman's involvement with the man who became her second spouse with such unseemly haste. Most damaging of all is the manner in which Haffenden, seeking to avoid digressions, abbreviates the record of those innumerable friendships, literary rivalries and amours, without a proper understanding of which our picture of Berryman is seriously impaired. It is noticeable, for example, that the women in Berryman's life are rendered in interchangeable, identikit terms.

Less exhaustive, Eileen Simpson's impressionistic memoir none the less exposes Haffenden's as a serviceable rather than a definitive biography. This is not just a matter of her privileged viewpoint as Berryman's first wife, her vivacious writing style, her trained psychotherapist's eye for the complexities of human motivation, or the splendid snapshots which punctuate her volume (though how revealing to see young Berryman kitted out in snap-brim hat, jacket, bow-tie and pipe, the very image of a delayed adolescent wishing to be thought mature). For Simpson's greatest coup is to set her account of their marriage in the context of their literary acquaintanceship. As the title suggests, considerable attention is paid to such poet friends as Delmore Schwartz, Dylan Thomas, Robert Lowell, Randall Jarrell and Theodore Roethke; however, critics (Allen Tate, R. P. Blackmur, Mark Van Doren, Edmund Wilson), novelists (Jean Stafford, Caroline Gordon), and editors (Robert Giroux, Dwight and Nancy Macdonald) also receive their due.

Granted that Berryman lived most fully through literature, this placement of him among his peers admirably serves to establish what Jarrell called his "mad charm". It also usefully reminds us that for twenty years, until his verse won a wider readership, Berryman found in these few stringent minds an audience for whom he needed to write at his best. Above all, this contextual methodology demonstrates the extent to which Berryman's miserable private life was more representative than peculiar. Having isolated him from his contemporaries, Haffenden is obliged to explain Berryman's self-destructiveness in purely personal terms; Simpson's broader sweep raises the question, even if she cannot then answer it, of those larger circumstances responsible for bringing an entire generation of talents to the same extremity.

Until such time as a definitive biography combines the virtues of both, the student of Berryman will need this provocative memoir to supplement Haffenden's thorough but constrictive tome.

John Osborne

Dr Osborne is lecturer in American studies at the University of Hull.

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HMSO BOOKS

Cultural challenge

British Influence on the Birth of American Literature
by Linden Peach
Macmillan, £17.50
ISBN 0 333 31510 3

In its Christmas issue for 1849, the *Illustrated London News* prophesied that the British race would continue to rule the world into the distant future, although ultimately from across the Atlantic:

> the genius of our people can exert itself as well on the banks of the Ohio as on the banks of the Thames, and rule the world from the White House at Washington with as much propriety as from the Palace of St. James'.

This prescient observation has indeed been borne out in the realm of empire, but less obviously so in the realm of art. America has dominated the twentieth century in popular rather than in high culture. And American intellectuals in search of models have increasingly turned to Paris, Vienna, or Poona rather than London or Edinburgh, as the British element in their society has become diluted.

Linden Peach's book deals with an earlier and more confident age. In the nineteenth century, British literature was acknowledged to hold a dominant place in American culture both for writers and readers. The obvious reason for this was that the vast majority of Americans were British, of quite recent descent; and their language had not yet diverged significantly from that of the mother country. So the question of influence is one of a different order from that of, say, Italian influence on the English renaissance. This fact is so plain that it is somewhat unproductive to discuss. Dr Peach has wisely chosen to take it for granted, and to concentrate more on the ways in which American authors sought to emphasize separateness as well as dependence. He quotes Melville's claim of belonging to a "peculiar chosen people", and Whitman's insistence on "the essential difference between the Old and the New".

These claims were often made more in aspiration than in substance. One problem which American authors faced was simply in getting published at all. The lack of international copyright meant that the work of famous British authors was pirated – or, to put it less euphemistically – by American publishers and sold at immense profit to a growing readership. The same applied to journalism and critics. Articles and reviews were lifted from British journals and published in American magazines founded specially for the purpose – foul-feeding ancestors of the *Reader's Digest* of today.

How could the American writer establish his own identity? Even for the most successful, it was a struggle. At one stage, even Fenimore Cooper felt that the pen was forced from his relentless grip with "all too much under the influence of foreign theories to receive him with favour". Other critics sought answers with the fact of British cultural significance not a problem but a challenge. Emerson's famous call for an American scholar to "plant himself indomitably on his instincts, and there abide" was a call for confrontation, assimilation, and re-constitution. Dr Peach calls this "creative reading"; Emerson in more elevated style described it as "the omnipotency with which Nature decomposes all her harvest for recomposition."

This study traces, in solid if pedestrian thesis-fashion, some of the creative relationships between British and American writers in the nineteenth century. It explores the influence of Wordsworth upon Whitman and Emerson, the influence of Scott upon Hawthorne, and the influence of Carlyle upon just about everyone. The impact of the last-named author – so odd to us nowadays – marked something of a turning-point, because to Whitman he represented a force to be challenged and overthrown. This marked the start of a new, healthier, and more equal relationship between the two national cultures, and one which is still developing in our own age. This book makes a well-documented contribution to our knowledge of its earlier phase.

Timothy Kidd

Timothy Kidd is lector in English at Trinity College, Cambridge.

Orthodox dissent

Dissentient Voice: Enlightenment and Christian dissent
by Donald Davie
University of Notre Dame Press, £11.85
ISBN 0 286 00852 3

This book consists of the Ward-Phillips lectures on "Enlightenment and Christian Dissent" given at the University of Notre Dame in 1980, together with some related pieces.

The result is a somewhat bumpy ride, but an exciting one: it travels the same road as *A Gathered Church*, Donald Davie's earlier exploration of the theme, but in a manner which is faster and more discursive. These must have been marvellous lectures to listen to; individual, provocative, personal and anecdotal in the best sense, like a good sermon, yet strenuous in thought and serious in intent. For Davie is really a preacher, as well as a scholar-critic: he is intent on clarifying the issues, on encouraging his kind of inquiry, on coming to a better understanding of what is meant by both "enlightenment" and "dissent". "I am not aware", he writes, "of carrying a torch for English Nonconformity or for anything else, only for the English language which, like any other writer in that language, I have an interest in keeping crisp, supple, and responsible."

This statement arises directly out of one of the book's interests: the place of Unitarianism, which Davie is concerned to distinguish from orthodox dissent. In an essay entitled "A Day with the DNB" he tears off the loose label, with relish, for too many unitarians and radicals (such as Tom Paine) are called "nonconformist". For Davie's liking (and it is writing "The Age of Reason" isn't enough to move a man outside the Christian communion altogether, then it's hard to conceive what any man can do or say that will not, at a pinch, be gathered under the skirts of 'Dissent'"). Here, as elsewhere, Davie is trying to keep his tools clean, as he seems to be in rejecting E. P. Thompson's claim to belong to "Old Dissent"; as an unbeliever, says Davie, Thompson cannot belong to it – "Those Old Dissenters were Christians, as Thompson explicitly and vehemently isn't – is it not just as simple as that?"

Well, no, it isn't. When Davie takes exception to Thompson's words on dissenters "doggedly resistant to the magics of religious symbolism even when they remained believers", he is refusing to acknowledge something which is very dear to the nonconformist heart, the right to believe in accordance with the individual dictates of reason and conscience. It is this which makes a nonconformist the true heir of the Reformation; he has a disinclination to accept a religious doctrine unless it has been examined, debated, and proved upon the pulses. Obviously this makes for difficulties, especially sectarian spilts: one of the elements of Methodism (which is under-represented in this book) was its tendency to form new churches, a situation only remedied (and then not completely) in 1932. Davie's interest, however, is in a central tradition of dissent, Presbyterian, Independent, Baptist, which he describes as "monolithic" (what about infant baptism?) and which he sees as deeply threatened by the Unitarians, who ruined the scenario by claiming to be dissenters and being anti-Trinitarian as well.

Davie uses the informality of the lecture and the loose form of this book to examine many different faces of dissent. In the process, he collects together some delightfully heterogeneous material: the University of Essex, Charles Olson, Rudyard Kipling, the Poet Laureate and Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, Jack Kemp and Isaac Watts. Davie's comments about hymns are, like his remarks on literary geography, engaging and stimulating: in Charles Wesley, for instance, "we encounter anacdotes, imaginative abstractions, that . . . ought to leave us gasping", and at another point he makes a surprising and apt parallel between Browning and Thomas Binney, whose great hymn "Eternal light! Eternal light!" is examined in full.

These lectures fairly crackle with life: they are full of out-of-the-way reading, unusual observation and individual perception, and in their treatment of hymns they do justice, even if briefly and randomly, to a neglected species of literature. But nonconformity is a slippery subject, and Davie often seems to be putting forward his own kind of dissent as the only authentic one: this means that the book is committed, inviting argument or agreement on almost every page. It is the preacher's privilege to claim that his message is authentic; it is his duty to make sure if he can, that it is true. Davie's book, lively and controversial as it is, would cause some sidelong glances in the pews.

J. R. Watson

J. R. Watson is professor of English at the University of Durham.

BOOKS

Race science

The Idea of Race in Science: Great Britain 1800–1960
by Nancy Stepan
Macmillan, in association with St Antony's College, Oxford, £20.00
ISBN 0 333 28856 4

This worthy, scholarly, but pedestrian book has suffered the misfortune that it has appeared just a few months after Stephen Jay Gould's swashbuckling and highly entertaining *The Mismeasure of Man* (Norton), which covers much the same ground, in greater detail, at half the price.

Not that they are books of the same kind. Stepan is writing history; Gould is preaching a sermon. But Gould is himself a practitioner, the highly controversial leader of the latest brand of neo-neo-Darwinism whose pronouncements drive his more conservative colleagues to frenzy. Gould knows from the inside what the argument is all about; he emphasizes the essentials and ignores the trivia. Stepan as an outsider sees only what happened, one thing after another, and it all has to go into her book. The end result is pretty dull.

There are other oddities. The dates in the subtitle are a puzzle. Nothing special happened in this field either in 1800 or in 1960; Stepan actually starts her story with Edward Tyson writing about the relationship between man and ape in 1699, although she might just as well have gone back to Aristotle. At the end, although she contracts out of a discussion of the implications of genetic engineering, her final reference is to a book published in 1974. Despite the price and the book's scholarly auspices it lacks a bibliography; the references are simply packed into footnotes in nineteenth-century style but all run together at the end of the book.

A lecturer in history at Yale, Stepan's general purpose is to provide an account of what happened during the nineteenth century and the first half of the twentieth century in "the old racial science . . . based on anatomy, morphology, typology and hierarchy". With baffling optimism she considers that this "science" has "for the most part . . . ceased to be important". That presumably is why it is now grist for the historian's mill.

Stepan also believes that "race science" has a "history and coherence of its own" which is independent of the "history of racism, nationalism, and imperialism". By contrast it is central to Gould's argument that this lamentable "science" still runs like poison through contemporary thought and that it is deeply entrenched in the structure of the societies in which it flourishes. That is why Gould's book keeps the reader awake where Stepan's acts like a nightcap.

The central problem of "race science" as it appeared in the nineteenth century was to make sense of the manifest diversities of man's physical appearance as exhibited in skin colour, hair form, skull shape, stature, language, and custom. One line of explanation accepted the biblical thesis that all men are radically different from all apes, but proposed that there are several distinct sub-species of men which are almost as different from each other as are chimpanzees and gorillas. Another version rejected biblical authority: man is not a unitary species at all but the product of several quite separate creations. Either doctrine, if coupled with the proposition that there is a general hierarchy of living things with the amoeba at the bottom and "men like us" at the top, leads to the logical conclusion that the "other" sub-species or species of men which are "not like us" are our inferiors.

A third type of theory assumes that men have evolved in the past out of non-men. The present human inhabitants of the world with their different body forms, skin colours, and so on, represent residues from this evolutionary past. Once again, "we", that is to say the white-skinned Europeans, are at the top of the tree. In this case what has put us at the top is our greater brain size which is to be correlated with greater intelligence. As an empirical fact "intelligence", however defined, does not correlate with brain size, and European brains are not larger than non-European brains; in this field, however, nobody bothers about empirical facts. If they get in the way you simply fake the evidence.

In one way or another doctrines of these several kinds, singly or in combination, were used to justify slavery, colonialism, "the science of eugenics" and Hitler's gas chambers. But Stepan is quite mistaken in thinking that in the grove of scandeme that is all a thing of the past.

Stepan gives us a careful chronological survey of how the various strands of these arguments divided and merged and redivided in the course of a century and a half. From my personal point of view much the most interesting section is that in which she discusses the differences between the views of Alfred Russel Wallace, who was a "socialist" of lower middle class background, and those of his one time collaborator Charles Darwin, the liberal, upper middle class, member of a dynasty of academic aristocrats. It turns out, though Stephen does not emphasize the point, that, despite all the current ballyhoo about Darwin's omniscience, it was Wallace in his later years who was often the more perceptive of what is now considered to be scientific truth.

There is other good and unfamiliar stuff in Stepan's treatment of the inglorious history of the eugenics movement but Gould's version, though much more prejudiced, is much more fun. A solemn book, then, for solemn readers but not one that is at all easy to read.

Edmund Leach

Sir Edmund Leach was professor of social anthropology at the University of Cambridge from 1972–78.

Diverse catalysts

Isoenzymes
by D. W. Moss
Chapman & Hall, £15.00
ISBN 0 412 22200 0

The functioning of living organisms depends on many hundreds of chemical reactions, all of which must be carefully regulated. This is made possible by each reaction having its own enzyme, a specific protein catalyst. Given the numbers and types of reactions involved, the array of enzymes in an organism appears of complex enough. However, a further level of complexity is introduced by many enzymes existing not as single entities but as sets of isoenzymes, different proteins having the same catalytic activity.

To cite the classic example, the interconversion of lactate and pyruvate is catalysed by multiple lactate dehydrogenase isoenzymes. Thus, the pure-bred female laboratory mouse possesses five lactate dehydrogenase isoenzymes. Her male counterpart, like all male mammals, produces an additional such isoenzyme which is present only in sperm. This diversity of enzyme form is quite outdone in the random-bred individual, whether man or mouse, who may possess as many as 36 lactate dehydrogenase isoenzymes. Isoenzymes are a common phenomenon with applications and implications across the breadth of biological science including medicine.

The author freely acknowledges that, but for the untimely death of Professor J. H. Wilkinson, this was to have been a jointly written third edition of Wilkinson's *Isoenzymes*. This new volume can be seen as a worthy successor to the former books, the most recent of which is now more than a decade old. Since both authors shared the same speciality, clinical enzymology, this topic remains well represented, and there remains throughout the same attention to detail.

In his short introduction, Professor Moss provides a clear historical perspective, showing that the concept of isoenzymes was accepted only reluctantly. Insofar as this acceptance is not yet complete, there is a useful role for this book. The following two chapters are core material, dealing with the mechanisms responsible for the generation of multiple enzyme forms, the differences between the resulting isoenzymes, and the methods used for distinguishing between them. Although this material is not new, it is illustrated by updated examples, and immunochemical methods are rightly given increased prominence.

Chapter four presents a discussion of the subcellular distributions of isoenzymes together with a clear account of cytoplasmic and mitochondrial isoenzymes; tissue distributions are also dealt with. The importance of isoenzymes in genetics – they may be used as indicators of events of the evolutionary past, as well as markers in the testing of theories of evolution – is then discussed in chapter five; and isoenzyme deficiency is considered as the basis of inherited disease. The chapter closes with the virtually obligatory example of the use of isoenzymes in fundamental genetics: the application of X-linked isoenzymes in proving that one of the two X-chromosomes in each female cell is inactivated.

Chapter six returns to the theme of tissue distributions of isoenzymes by giving an account of changes in their expression during development. Finally, the book deals with the now routine application of isoenzymes in tests on serum samples for the diagnosis of disease. Here progress is indicated by the inclusion of lactate dehydrogenase isoenzymes only as a model for such tests, more reliable measurements such as that of the creatine phosphokinase MB isoenzyme now being preferred.

This book is a mine of useful information, with nearly 500 references to isoenzyme studies. Although the author has been faced with the difficult task of marshalling all this into a manageable form, he has unfortunately not altogether succeeded, and one frequently finds repetition. For instance, a diagram in chapter two shows the location on the human chromosomes of genes determining certain isoenzymes. The same information is recorded in the text over 100 pages later. Even if this repetition were important, surely tabular presentation would have been better. Indeed, it is rather odd that a book so packed with information does not contain a single table. Diagrams of many types are, however, used to good effect throughout, but the overall result is that too much text is taken up with information and not enough is devoted to explanation and discussion.

C. C. Rider

C. C. Rider is lecturer in biochemistry at Royal Holloway College, University of London.

Reptile watching

Underside of a tokay gecko, a large lizard up to 35 cm long from the Far East, showing that the toes bear rows of supple ridge-like scales. Each scale bears hundreds of tiny, hair-like protrusions, each of which in turn is tipped by "brushes" of up to 2000 branched filaments, bearing saucer-shaped tips and providing about 100 million points of contact. Taken from The Grand Design by Salley Foy, published by Dent at £12.50.

Biology of Reptiles: an ecological approach
by Ian F. Spellerberg
Blackie, £17.95 and £8.95
ISBN 0 216 91257 1 and 91256 3

Blackie's series of Tertiary Level Biology texts is aimed at "advanced undergraduates" and "specialists and research workers in other fields who require a knowledge of the essentials of a subject". This latest addition to the series has the same target, and is every bit as concise, up-to-date and well produced as its predecessors.

The most refreshing quality of the book is its ecological flavour: The reptile in its environment has been made the framework within which form, function and behaviour are to be interpreted. Horny scales and crests, hollow teeth and the loss of limbs are not simply "facts" of reptilian anatomy but adaptive responses to environmental challenges. The extinction of the ruling reptiles is not merely a palaeontological discontinuity but a great ecological drama. Differences in the way reptiles breed reflect not meaningless variability but important strategic adjustments to the problems of reproduction under different environmental circumstances. The reptile's ability to control its heat exchanges with the environment in the interests of body temperature regulation, far from being an ineffectual attempt at homeothermy, is a remarkable behavioural mechanism with a number of energetic advantages over avian and mammalian endothermy.

Such an approach to the biology of reptiles has long been needed, but here as elsewhere in the animal world, it is only quite recently that a rigorous ecological orientation has become possible. Dr Spellerberg, a research worker in the field of reptile ecology, exploits the opportunity with considerable success.

The book begins with a summary of current thinking on the evolutionary origins and classification of living and extinct reptiles, together with a brief systematic account of the major subclasses and orders. Of the 17 orders known, just four survive today, "a poor legacy", as Dr Spellerberg remarks, "from what was once a flourishing and spectacular array of dominant animals". Why did the rest become extinct? Probably because of climatic changes, although other possibilities exist. Spellerberg discusses just one of these: Swain's hypothesis that the great herbivorous reptiles were poisoned by toxic alkaloids in the leaves and stems of flowering plants, themselves new arrivals on the Cretaceous scene.

The anatomical and physiological foundations of reptilian life are laid in the second and longest chapter of the book, into which the great bulk of what is currently known about reptiles has been very effectively condensed. Chapter three examines the biogeography of reptiles, and includes a useful account of recent theoretical developments in the ecology of islands, to which reptile studies have made such a valuable contribution. This is also true of the concepts of "reproductive strategy" and "reproductive effort", which together with an outline of reproductive physiology, are the concerns of a chapter on "reproduction and development".

The next two chapters are overtly ecological, and deal respectively with the physical (water and heat exchanges) and biotic (population biology and niche theory) interactions of reptiles with their environments. Behaviour is discussed in a separate chapter and the book ends with a review of endangered reptiles and the problems of conservation. The bibliography is excellent.

P. M. C. Davies

P. M. C. Davies is lecturer in zoology at the University of Nottingham.

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S Sayer, Department of Economics, Edinburgh University

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BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

The choice spirit

Critical Decision Making: a new theory of social choice
by David Collingridge
Frances Pinter, £15.00
ISBN 0 86187 238 X
The Unintended Consequences of Social Action
by Raymond Boudon
Macmillan, £25.00
ISBN 0 333 25845 2

Unless one happens to believe that human beings are ineluctably propelled by forces beyond their control – that they are, as it were, integrated into the causal texture of the physical universe – then the concept of "choice" may, quite plausibly, be said to rest at the centre of all the social sciences. Sociologists and psychologists speak of human actions, economists and political scientists of decision-making, but differing linguistic usage cannot conceal the fundamental truth that the social sciences are concerned, in their descriptive and explanatory guise, with how and why human beings, individually and collectively, make choices and what the consequences of their choices are.

In their normative guise the social sciences are further concerned with how (rational) decisions should be made. If mathematics is the queen of the physical sciences then the theory of decision-making (which itself is rather mathematical) is the same to the social sciences. And, needless to say, there would be little left of ethics and moral theory if we dispensed with the idea of choice. Nobody can be in doubt, therefore, about the importance of the theory.

Decision theorists – and other social scientists who have taken their lead, have found it useful to inhabit a hypothetical world in which an individual decision-maker is faced with a set of unambiguous options (things that can be done) each if enacted leading to a fully understood set of consequences. Decision-makers are then able to rank order each option in terms of the aggregate value or utility which the consequences carry for them. The essentials of the model are not altered if we allow that the decision-maker is only able to place probability numbers against the consequences; one is then obliged to make a decision under *risk*. Furthermore, even worse, if the probability numbers are not known we are in the realm of decision-making under uncertainty.

David Collingridge, in his ambitiously entitled book, reviews these various models, but notes that whatever their attractions, they rest upon a number of questionable assumptions – notably that all the options and consequences can unequivocally be identified by the decision-maker. But the novelty of his own model derives from the manner in which he seeks to amend a further assumption, namely that which puts the values and preferences of the decision-maker beyond rational appraisal. But how, Collingridge asks, can decision-making models devoid of these considerations which would seek to justify values intrinsic to the model, be used as a normative guide? Some way must be found whereby the values used in decision-making are justified. Collingridge will, however, have no truck with attempts to ground values in the reasons for holding them, for this (as philosophers are prone to say) merely leads to infinite regress. So how can preferences (based upon values) be justified?

Collingridge's solution, which owes much to a Popperian view of things, depends upon the decision-maker simultaneously holding two or more preferences, one or other of which can be put in jeopardy by a factual statement. He wishes, thus, to treat preference statements as truth functional; something which has the rather paradoxical implication that an individual may be mistaken about his *own* preferences.

For example, consider an individual claiming at one and the same time to prefer A to B and b to a; then, if it can be demonstrated factually that A will lead to a, the conjunction of the two preference statements is incompatible with this fact. To put it another way, it would follow from their conjunction that A would not lead to a. Collingridge makes much of this observation inviting us to endorse it as the centre-piece in a new theory of social choice; in most realistic decisions, he argues, explicit preferences are conjoined with background preferences and both are consequently open to critical scrutiny. So rather than, as with the more traditional models, accepting value judgments and preferences at their face values we may, as good Popperians, challenge the decision-maker on his own grounds. This is an interesting idea which, if the examples given in the book are anything to go by can be helpful as a guide in sorting out our inconsistencies, but whether it will prove as useful as the author seems to believe is a moot point. Having just spent a year fending off the ravages of the UGC I am forcibly struck by the extent to which decision-makers can indulge in sustained ad hocery in protecting their inconsistencies from anything except their own prejudices.

Raymond Boudon's book, much of which is made up of rather heavy essays which have appeared elsewhere, is also devoted to the analysis of decision-making though, here, it appears under the title of social action. The author analyses, in a number of contexts, how human actions which seem individually quite rational can collectively aggregate to give unintended (often perverse) consequences. For instance, the expansion of educational opportunity in most industrial societies, advocated on the grounds that it will increase equality and social mobility, rarely has this effect. Boudon draws on many examples of this sort and on an impressively wide range of economic and sociological writings, in order to present a systematic analysis of the unintended consequences of what we do. Armed with this he provides a survey of the various theoretical paradigms found in the social sciences which enables him to effectively dispose of the viewpoint with which I opened this review. This is a book for the specialist reader.

Peter Abell

Peter Abell is professor of sociology at the University of Surrey.

A 'key' thinker

Emile Durkheim
by Kenneth Thompson
Ellis Horwood, £6.50 and £2.95
ISBN 0 85312 394 2 and 419 1
Durkheim and the Study of Suicide
by Steve Taylor
Macmillan, £15.00 and £5.95
ISBN 0 333 28645 6 and 28646 4

Emile Durkheim died in 1917. In his contribution to the "Key Sociologist" series, Kenneth Thompson addresses himself to the question of Durkheim's relevance to modern readers.

He begins by presenting a sketch of Durkheim's career, bringing the man to life as a thinker and as the founder of a discipline. He then turns to a detailed consideration of four works which he believes have established Durkheim's reputation, providing us with a conspectus of his principal theoretical insights and his main empirical concerns. Each of the four works – *The Division of Labour, The Rules of Sociological Method, Suicide* and *The Elementary Forms of the Religious Life* – is reviewed with an eye to the way in which the work exhibits some major characteristic of Durkheim's sociology as a whole, suggesting ways in which its central ideas have provided the inspiration for subsequent developments in the discipline. He concludes with brief discussions of Durkheim's politics, and his writing on education.

One of Thompson's continuing concerns is to banish several of the calumnies which have crept into teaching about Durkheim. So the apolitical positivist is replaced by the radical defender of republicanism, who with some reluctance set aside his investigation into contemporary socialism. The grandfather of functionalism is discovered to be the ancestor of the *Annales* school of historians. The fable of a headlong flight "clean over into idealism" is challenged, and Durkheim is portrayed as a philosophical *realist*, particularly in his persistent attention to questions of social "morphology".

Several questions linger, however, after reading Thompson's account. Whereas Anthony Giddens has pointed out that the *Rules* is probably the weakest link in Durkheim's oeuvre, Thompson accords it a central place in his assessment. Whereas Durkheim's principal achievements are often thought to be in his power as a teacher, Thompson pays little attention to works based on his lectures. Moreover, can it really be said that the unity of Durkheim's work was one of *method* (his "structuralism" according to Thompson)? Questions of morals surely find a central place in all of his writings.

In spite of these problems of balance we have here an introductory work which is accessible to the sociological novice, and which clearly justifies its subject's intellectual reputation. The aim of the series is to "present concise and readable texts covering the work, life and influence of many of the most important sociologists." By the declared standards of the editors of the series, then the book succeeds, but it does not answer the question "why is Durkheim a "key sociologist"? Durkheim's domination of French sociology ended with his death, and his disciples were ousted by partisans of other conceptions of sociology. His work has been rediscovered only in the past two decades by a younger generation of sociologists. As Thompson himself recognizes, Durkheim's views survived and were influential in British and American sociology largely in a corrupted form. References to the contemporary inheritors of a Durkheimian tradition are therefore necessarily few in Thompson's study. If Durkheim was a "key sociologist", has his importance been exclusively historical?

This question is answered emphatically by Steve Taylor's *Durkheim and the Study of Suicide*. Taylor's view is that Durkheim's *Suicide* "remains the most important sociological work on suicide." He argues that "the notion that there has been some profound methodological advance in the study of suicide since Durkheim cannot be sustained."

Taylor does not set out to apply or test hypotheses lifted from the pages of *Suicide*, which he believes falls short of providing an acceptable sociological theory of suicide. Durkheim relied on official data relating to suicide rates: but Taylor insists that these cannot provide a secure foundation for theory. His own investigation of the practice of coroners (and particularly his study of "persons under trains" in the London Underground) illustrates clearly the socially constructed nature of official statistics.

He emphasizes, instead the need to examine the "micro-social contexts of social actions", and in particular the suicidal act itself, developing his own social-psychological typology of such acts and proposing significant revisions of the Durkheimian *schema*. Taylor's own definition of suicide

Emile Durkheim

brings into the ambit of his theory all those acts which have previously been excluded under the labels of "attempted" or "pseudo" suicides, together with many types of risk-taking behaviour. Thus he views most suicides as ordeals to which individuals submit themselves, rather than as an expression of the wish to die.

Taylor tells us that he began this work with "an ambition to 'disprove' Durkheim's positivist study of suicide". Ironically, he has produced an important and original contribution to the field which illustrates more than any other book I have read the reasons why Emile Durkheim is still a "key sociologist".

John Allcock

John Allcock is lecturer in sociology at the University of Bradford.

Do Women Hear a Different Drummer?

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BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

A local habitation

Belonging: identity and social organisation in British rural cultures
edited by Anthony P. Cohen
Manchester University Press, £7.50
ISBN 0 7190 0859 X

This book represents something of a landmark in terms of rural sociology, although it is perhaps more in the way of a "tip of the iceberg" for social anthropology. The mutual distancing and methodological opposition of the two disciplines are well known features of their steadfast intent to treat the same subjects in totally different ways; they have often seemed to share few things save a distaste for studies of *British* rural society and culture.

The reasons for this shared opposition to the rural world of Britain as an object of study show how the two disciplines are in fact intertwined, for there was in the past a long British tradition of research into "community" which numbered sociologists and social anthropologists almost equally among its devotees. This tradition died in the welter of criticism – much justified, but a good deal the result of meretricious jumping on the critical bandwagon – of the rural "community studies" which had constituted the training ground of so many sociologists and social anthropologists of the postwar period. Its death made for a parting of the ways. To oversimplify, sociologists turned to their *causes célèbres* of stratification, industry and urban development, while social anthropologists found the resources to return to their "natural" subject matter: exotic "foreign" cultures. From the early 1960s to the late 1970s rural Britain was ignored by all but a handful of sociologists and social anthropologists.

This collection of essays expresses a fascinating and overdue resurgence of social anthropological interest in rural Britain which has been occasioned by both material factors – or as Cohen puts it "circumstances which have made our customary fieldwork areas physically and financially inaccessible" – and intellectual changes which have seen the concept of *culture* become more useful and central in relation to long-term fieldwork. This "renaissance" invites comparison with the burgeoning of a new British rural sociology in the late 1970s – the apparently sudden discovery that the British countryside was not merely a landscape, but contained a significant segment of British society complete with (perhaps) a distinctive mode of production, stratification system and forms of social conflict. In the case of social anthropology, Cohen claims the discovery of another type of distinctiveness as the *raison d'être* of his collection: a cultural assertiveness of *locality* by community members which negates any general theory of local rural culture, emphasizing instead the need to interpret the particularistic meaning of local cultural identities. Despite appearances this is not to overemphasize the "local" at the expense of any wider sociocultural context – indeed Cohen makes a strong claim that he and his co-authors wish to show how "local experience mediates national identity".

At the heart of his collection then, in a firm argument that ignorance of the power and scope of local cultural identities has led to the facile glossing of British culture as fundamentally homogeneous. This has had serious political repercussions for many localities because the "centre" has tended to treat them as parts of a general category, thus confusing *particular* needs and interests under headings which suit administrative demands for uniformity, or for the identification of a spurious "region" which has no cultural meaning.

The studies included in this impressive volume cover such disparate localities as Whalsay, in the Shetland Islands (by Cohen himself); Tory Island, Donegal (Robin Fox); Lewis, in the Outer Hebrides (Peter Mewett); Elmdon, Essex (Marilyn Strathern); Blaenau Ffestiniog in North Wales (Isabell Emmett); and Kilbroney in Northern Ireland (S. S. Larsen). All demonstrate, to a greater or lesser extent, the power of local cultures to express a collective identity. At the same time, the very great merit of this book is to underline by its *comparative* focus the way in which such a collective identity provides a crucial basis for opposition to the encroaching demands of an external culture and political stucture.

It is to be hoped that this book heralds the inauguration of a new tradition of community and locality research: it certainly provides the theoretical and conceptual basis for such a development.

Peter Hamilton

Peter Hamilton is lecturer in sociology at the Open University.

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Symphonic variations

Classes, Power and Conflict: classical and contemporary debates
edited by Anthony Giddens and David Held
Macmillan, £25.00 and £7.95
ISBN 0 333 32289 4 and 32290 8

When I last reviewed a reader on social class and stratification, I remarked that these works usually have a structure similar to that of the early eighteenth-century orchestral or instrumental suite: a substantial overture (a section of excerpts from the classical theorists) is followed by a succession of far lighter and sometimes rather inconsequential movements chosen from a predictable range of dance forms (the sections comprising empirical findings and bits of theorizing on social mobility, elites, eastern Europe, and so on).

This new contribution to the genre conforms to the pattern in one respect (the weighty slab of classical theory for an overture), but there is not then a drop in level in the rest of the collection, and the whole seems far better integrated – more symphonic indeed.

This achievement must be partly the result of the editors' skill in choosing prescient and relevant readings, but also because they have kept broadly within one recognizable tradition. This is a reader about class, not social stratification, and nearly all the contributions are addressed within the Marxist tradition. This is "sociology as a debate with the ghost of Marx" with a vengeance. The classical overture sets the scene by putting Lenin there with Marx, Weber and no one else – and of course Giddens has always seen Weber as a writer "post Marx", rather than *sui generis*. The following sections then cover: contemporary theories of class and class conflict; classes, elites and the state; technology, conflict and the labour market; class consciousness and ideology; capitalism, gender and patriarchy; class, race and the city; and classes in eastern Europe.

I say "addressed within" the Marxist tradition rather than "contributions to" it, since by no means all the authors are Marxists. To name just a few, the relations to Marxism of Frank Parkin, David Lockwood, Michael Mann and Alec Nove are distinctly dialectical, but they all put in valuable appearances. However, the majority of the authors would probably call themselves Marxists, and most of the main contributions to the Marxist sociology of class during the past decade or so are within these covers: Poulantzas, Erik Olin Wright, Braverman, Therborn, Offe and Ronge, Boris Frankel, Marglin, Edward P. Thompson, Garnsey, David Harvey. I also found some valuable unfamiliar pieces, such as Jane Humphries's heretical account of the role of the patriarchal working-class family as a defence against rather than a tool of capitalism.

The costs of a selection taken from one branch of the literature are of course that some important things get left out (and, of course, if they had included them we would have complained about eclecticism). It would have probably done everybody some good if the section on the state had included some of the renascent market-liberal literature of the past few years – some of which, with its pessimism about the relationship between democracy and capitalism and over the implications of a high level of public spending do in fact sit quite comfortably with the Marxist tradition. And it is a pity that the literature on labour-market segmentation associated with Doeringer and Piore ranks just a mention and not an excerpt, presumably because it is considered to be outflanked by the "radical" wing of this literature.

One can also complain about specific omissions: no Miliband, Carchedi or Lindblom – and no Rex in a section on "class, race and the city"! Of course, unmentioned problems over copyright may explain some such omissions, but even if they do not, the editors of such a well chosen 646 pages would be entitled to retort: "What would you have left out instead?" The collection has the defects as well as the merits of the Marxist tradition – an amount of circumlocution to cope with the fact that sometimes the tradition is simply and horribly *wrong*, but, this is a highly useful book that will find a grateful place on many reading lists. And students may well find that £7.95 invested here will save them quite a sum elsewhere.

Colin Crouch

Colin Crouch is reader in sociology at the London School of Economics.

'Race' in Britain: continuity and change is edited by Charles Husband and published by Hutchinson at £6.95. Produced as a set reader for the Open University course "Ethnic minorities and community relations" it groups the readings under five headings, ending with a section which presents "a perspective for the future".

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Edited by LORNA MCKEE and MARGARET O'BRIEN

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BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

Salvational systems

Getting Saved from the Sixties: moral meaning in conversion and cultural change
by Steven M. Tipton
University of California Press, £14.00
ISBN 0 520 03868 1

What must I do to be saved? The preoccupation is timeless and the answers – in their many and varied forms – provide guidelines for the conduct of this world as well as access to an appropriate condition in the next. In the western world, the shift in ethical fashion has taken us through obedience to the authoritative prescriptions of God, utilitarianism and, in the 1960s and thereafter, the expressive ethic of the counter culture.

The latter encouraged a way of life based on intuition, honest expression of self and unregulated feelings; none of which were readily susceptible to institutionalization, and thus ill-equipped to provide the basis of a way of life for long. What, then, was to become of sixties youth as they grew older and faced the failure of the counterculture to provide an enduring set of social institutions?

Steven Tipton, in a persuasively original approach to the new religions, examines three examples of the way in which they provided solutions to the dilemma facing counter cultural youth who wished to hold on to aspects of the expressive ethic, but had to accommodate to some degree to the fact that it had not successfully generated a viable alternative way of life.

His first case is an authoritarian millennial Christian sect which retained many features of counter cultural life-style while legitimating involvement in blue-collar work, sexual restraint and subordination of self to the imitation of Christ. Lower middle-class drug-takers found there a resonance of their home backgrounds in which discipline and deferred gratification figured large, while in the charismatic experience of its ritual they found a substitute for their former drug experiences. The sect resolved the moral ambiguities of the counter culture by providing a clear-cut set of prescriptions for life in the context of an ecstatic practice and an emotionally close, but controlled, community.

His second case is a composite of various Zen Buddhist groups on the Pacific coast of America which encourage work through an ethic of service, and the cultivation of non-attachment in the search for enlightenment. Upper middle-class, college-educated youth seeking an escape from the prospect of bureaucracy and corporatism, found in Zen a legitimation for the pursuit of creativity in craft work and implementation of their humanistic aspirations in a meditative community and service to others. For former light drug users, the meditative practice provided a disciplined alternative means of transcendence.

His third case is the psychological metaphysics of Erhard Seminars Training (*est*) which justified the seeking of instrumental gratification through a philosophy of individualistic idealism. *Est* offered a recourse for highly quantified middle-class youth forced to accept routine white-collar work and the limitations of conventional middle-class life. It offered a language and a set of techniques for accepting the realities of corporate bureaucracy. Happiness, says *est*, lies not in getting what you want, but in wanting what you get.

Tipton goes further, however, to show that the ethical syntheses displayed by the new religious and quasi-religious movements are not isolated marginal occurrences in American society. Similar ethical patterns can be distilled from the public pronouncements of a Jimmy Carter, advancing a traditional authoritarian Christian ethic, Governor Jerry Brown with his variant of Buddhist principled politics, and California Assemblyman John Vasconcellos whose politics are predicated upon a version of humanistic psychology. Tipton thus takes issue with the thesis of Bryan Wilson that the new religions remain essentially marginal to the modern world, unable to make any significant impact upon a broader culture permeated by rationality and secularization.

Whether, in the long run, Tipton or Wilson is proved right remains to be seen. In the meantime, Tipton's work should have a decisive effect upon the study of new salvational systems.

Roy Wallis

Roy Wallis is professor of sociology and dean of the faculty of economics and social sciences, The Queen's University of Belfast.

Daylight robbery

Burglary in a Dwelling: the offence, the offender and the victim
by Mike Maguire, in collaboration with Trevor Bennett
Heinemann Educational, £13.50
ISBN 0 435 82567 4

Thankfully, this book adopts a rather unfashionable approach to criminology, neither ideologically "committed", nor "appreciative" of burglary. The aim of the book, it seems, is simply to inform readers of the facts about this, one of the most common serious crimes, around which all manner of myths have developed.

Evidence is drawn from a number of sources: official crime statistics: Thames Valley Police records for Banbury, Reading and Gerrards Cross; and interviews with persistent burglars and their victims. The author is always cautious in his interpretation of these limited data and discusses in detail such imponderables as the "dark figure" of unrecorded burglaries. The result is a clearly written and revealing anatomy of this one particular crime, that deserves to be read by all those with a professional interest in burglary, particularly since this is a crime which causes so much anxiety.

The first thing to emerge is that burglary is very largely a "local crime", which, because its main practitioners are from the lower socio-economic strata, occurs mainly in or on the fringes of council estates and areas of poor housing, a pattern that does not seem to be attributable to selective policing. There are variations, however, according to the characteristics of the area: in Banbury burglary is almost exclusively local, while in the affluent commuter town of Gerrards Cross it is almost exclusively the preserve of professional outsiders. Reading is a mixture of these two patterns, with burglary concentrated in areas of social deprivation and also a few middle-class districts within easy travelling distance.

Contrary to the image of the burglar creeping around the bedroom in the dead of night, burglary is largely a daytime offence committed when people are unlikely to be home. The method of entry is usually unsophisticated such as by breaking a window and the offence is frequently unplanned rather than opportunistic.

Again, contrary to the popular image of a few professional burglars and a mass of amateurs, the typical burglar turns out to be in between these two extremes. He is a persistent recidivist, though not a specialist in burglary alone, is reasonably though not highly skilled, and has many criminal contacts but without access to the kind of high-class receivers that would make stealing high-value goods such as antiques profitable. Burglars are integrated into a criminal "underworld" of thieves and receivers, with whom jobs can be planned and to whom stolen goods can be sold. However there is little loyalty and many break the unwritten code against "grassing" to the police when caught, which not only causes mutual distrust, but gives each individual an incentive to "grass" on his collaborators before he, in turn, is grassed upon. The authors supplement this outline sketch with a chapter-length case study of one burglar, whom before he was caught had apparently solved most of the problems that confront such men.

Other myths are demolished when the authors show that the value of things stolen is usually modest (around £50) and how few burglaries are accompanied by vandalism, ransacking, confrontation between burglar and victim, or violence if a confrontation occurs. Nevertheless, victims experience burglary as a tremendous shock, which remains in the form of feelings of insecurity and general suspicion of others. Those most vulnerable to these long-term effects are widowed, separated or divorced women, who the author suggests are influenced more by the popular image of burglary rather than the reality of their own experience. Indeed, they report that many victims found the experience not to be as bad as they had feared; the realization that this was so initiated their recovery from this ordeal.

However, an ordeal it was, and the usual response was instinctively to call the police for help. Victims did not expect the burglar to be caught, but found great comfort and reassurance in the fact that the police were doing something about this gross violation of their privacy. Here, however, the police are criticized for failing to appreciate that what is depressingly routine for them is traumatic for the victim.

Considering the trauma they have suffered, it is surprising that victims are not more vindictive towards their burglars: few thought that prison was an appropriate sentence and most favoured some form of rehabilitation. However, when asked about burglars in general, victims reverted to the higher levels of punitiveness associated with public opinion surveys, which suggests that when asked for general statements victims rely upon popular myths about burglary rather than their own experience.

Burglary is, of course, a notoriously difficult crime for the police to detect; the clear-up rate is, at best, below 30 per cent, and can be as low as 10 per cent. The reasons, it seems, are the burglaries are usually discovered long after the burglar has left the scene, and that the victim and the offender are usually unknown to each other, thus the police have no identifiable set of suspects. Forensic wizardry is of little use in the detection process, accounting for less than 1 per cent of successful detections, but is useful in confirming the suspicions of the police regarding some individual.

The main source of detection comes from the routine harassment of known villains who then confess and incriminate others during the course of interrogation. If all this is reminiscent of pre-trial "plea-bargaining" with the police pressurizing a suspect to admit to more offences than he has committed in return for charging him with a lesser offence, two points need to be born in mind. First, the number of offences burglars admit to committing appears to be less rather than more than the number they have actually committed. Second, it is not at all uncommon for offenders to admit to offences of which the police were previously ignorant and hence would not be looking to "write off" as part of any such bargain.

If this discussion makes you want to run out and buy all the modern gadgetry of "target-hardening" don't. Better locks and bolts seem to have only a marginal effect in preventing entry. The best strategy is to move to an owner-occupied house, well away from any council estate or area of poor housing, sited mid-way along the street, lacking the privacy of high walls or hedges, over-looked by ostentatiously nosey neighbours . . . and buy a dog.

P. A. J. Waddington

Dr Waddington is lecturer in sociology at the University of Reading.

Exploring Society, edited by Robert G. Burgess, is published by the British Sociological Association at £3.50. It is aimed at students coming to sociology for the first time and focuses on sociological research. The contributors are Colin Bell, Robert Burgess, Janet Finch, Robert Moore, Helen Roberts and Margaret Stacey.

BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

Return to methods

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ISBN 0 04 310014 7 and 310015 5
Deciphering Sociological Research
by Gerry Rose
Macmillan, £12.95 and £5.95
ISBN 0 333 28557 3 and 28558 1

In the 70s, the ethnomethodological Hercules slew the multi-headed Hydra of positivism, or so it seemed. But, as Catherine Marsh wryly comments in her book *The Survey Method*:

> Positivism is, in fact, like sin: everyone is against it. The question is whether surveys are inherently sinful. Are they good or bad *in themselves*? Do you have to buy this unsatisfactory epistemological package to get the free gift of survey methods?

The odd head keeps emerging from beneath the rock: the struggle continues.

Beginning chiefly with Cicourel's *Method and Measurement in Sociology* in 1964, the whole empirical tradition misleadingly referred to as positivism came under radical attack. This is no place to review the often complex philosophical grounds of that attack; suffice it to say that the conventional way of thinking about research procedure came under fire not so much as being deficient but as misconceived and, ultimately, incapable of doing what it claimed. "Variables", it was stated, were an inappropriate import from natural science; "measurement" was either in principle or practice impossible (and irrelevant); and "meaning", so crucial to explain social life, was eliminated by such procedures.

The effect of the critique was dramatic: whole departments polarized on the issue, and in many cases "methods" were either removed from the syllabus or replaced by research methods which focused on the micro-sociology of meaning structures and language. Survey researchers retreated into commercial and independent research institutes and a sociology graduate was more likely to have been taught why survey research was not possible than ever to have been exposed to any convincing examples.

However justified the criticism – and much of it surely is – it has not been sufficient. These four books all relate in difffering ways to the issue and are all characterized by an air of confidence and by a willingness to move from the defensive to the attack.

Robert Burgess's volume deals with participant observation, a method as central as survey analysis to social research. It had its origins in social anthropology (hence the "field", the anthropologist's research arena) and has a long history in American and European research as a mode of "research by involvement" in a social organization. It is favoured by social scientists of very different persuasions, but due to the subtlety of its practice and the complexities of the subject matter, it has always been difficult to provide extensive or coherent accounts of the actual research procedures employed: it has therefore been more of a craft than a technique. Following a good, but too brief review of the area, Burgess's book organizes under headings a set of readings which are designed to illustrate typical problems: the researcher's role, the adaptation of sampling procedures, available strategies, note-taking and recording and so forth.

It takes its place as an invaluable, up to date and authoritative resource book for all concerned with participant observation: but it is not, nor does it claim to be, a systematic account of the method.

Catherine Hakim's book is best described by its sub-title. Again, it is not a "how to do" text, but rather an extensive description and analysis of the main sources of governmental data, collected on a regular and repeated basis (Census, General Household survey, Family Expenditure survey and Labour Force survey), other surveys and data sets, official and non-official, and finally a review of the aims and functions of data archives, with special reference to the SSRC Survey Archive at Essex.

It is, however, more than a description of such sources: her treatment of the problems, potential and practicalities of using such data makes it amply clear that it is written by someone with extensive knowledge and experience, and the constant return to the international perspective gives the text a unique flavour. In a period when costs of data collection are increasing, secondary data analysis becomes especially attractive (as Michael Posner notes drily in his introduction). More to the point, continuing national surveys such as the GHS provide data of a far higher quality, dependability and comparability than many special-purpose one-off surveys and they are sadly under-used by the teaching and research community.

Criteria such as dependability and reliability are not likely to impress those with a principled objection to surveys per se, and it is such persons that Catherine Marsh has in mind when writing her original and eminently readable book. It is not intended as a textbook, but rather as an explanation, and defence of at least the best of the survey tradition against the monstrous regiment of its detractors. Marsh is fully aware of the shortcomings, misuse and sheer silliness of some forms of survey analysis and makes no attempt to defend those who undertake it. She begins with a fascinating and informative historical account of survey research, moves on to rehearse and address the staple criticisms made of survey research, and then forcibly argues the proposition that the survey is perfectly capable of providing adequacy at the level of both cause and meaning. The book finishes with a timely and relevant consideration of the political applications of the survey (copy to the Cabinet Office).

I cannot fault the book in its spirited defence of the survey method; its detractors cannot avoid the challenge she makes and its practitioners will gain considerable confidence from her defence. However, there are occasional lapses and inaccuracies, some of considerable consequence. For instance, in 1966 Selvin produced a report, entitled *The Logic of Survey Analysis*, for the Berkeley Research Center, concerned with the likely impact of the computer on survey analysis. This report formed the basis of his later work with Hirschi, cited by Marsh. In it, he argued for the supercession of elaboration using cross-tabulation by multivariate statistical methods: the report was not, it appears, accepted by his superiors who shared neither his perspicacity nor his foresight. But it revolutionized the craft of survey analysis, as evidenced by books such as Payne and O'Muircheartaigh's influential two-volume *Analysis of Survey Data* (1977). These developments, and the extension of survey analysis to deal with hierarchical and data structures more complex than the rectangular matrix referred to in Marsh's definition, deserve consideration and would further strengthen her case. But on any account, she has produced a book which is both scholarly and interesting – itself a rare combination – and which no social researcher can afford to ignore.

Gerry Rose's book is published in a different series and is addressed to a different audience. It is not a conventional textbook aiming at comprehensiveness, but is rather concerned with the question of how research reports should be systematically evaluated in relation to central methodological issues – something every professional sociologist should be competent at, but manifestly is not. He devotes the first half of the text to developing what he terms the ABCDE model for assessing the adequacy of research reports. This model involves such headings as the theoretical context and specific research propositions, operationalization, field work and results. It is flexible enough to encompass most variants of sociological research – though he, too, hedges on the ethnomethodological account. The attitudes, and knowledge in the last ten years.
Cloth £19.50 Paper £6.95 *Forthcoming*

Tamara K. Hareven's Family Time and Industrial Time (Cambridge University Press, £25.00 and £9.95) investigates how the American family has adapted to work in factories. The picture shows unemployed loom fixers.

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1982 edition
Wardell B. Pomeroy
Foreword by Anke Ehrhardt
In 1972 Wardell Pomeroy published a personal account of Kinsey the man, the story behind his two famous reports on American sex behaviour, and the storm of controversy these reports aroused. This fascinating book is now reissued with a new foreword by the president of the International Academy of Sex Research.
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Yale University Press
13 Bedford Square, London WC1B 3JF

BOOKS

SOCIOLOGY

Harm, or benefit?

Ethical Issues in Social Science Research
edited by Tom L. Beauchamp, Ruth R. Faden, R. Jay Wallace, Jr and Leroy Walters
Johns Hopkins University Press, £18.75 and £6.75
ISBN 0 8018 2655 1 and 265n X

An ethical person was once defined by Mark Twain as a Christian holding four aces. The cards held by social scientists in this era of free-enterprise governments do not make up a very strong hand, so why add to our burdens by worrying about ethics? This excellent collection of 19 original essays by American scholars provides a comprehensive and compelling answer to that question, in relation to social science research.

The main justification for paying attention to ethical issues in research is the existence of values influencing the scholar which transcend the advancement of knowledge for its own sake. Behaviour such as bugging jury rooms, lying to subjects in psychological experiments, asking painful and intrusive questions in social surveys or spying on people while pretending to be a participant all raise sharply the justification for breaking with customary modes of behaviour in the name of social science. Values such as respect for persons, or treating people as ends rather than means, may suggest that certain types of behaviour should be avoided. It is clear, for example, that in any calculus of the harm versus the benefit of a piece of research, the causing of *certain* harm to research subjects in the name of *possible* benefit resulting from the research is unjustified.

Such issues are well understood and articulated in the bio-medical field, and indeed the editors of this collection are associated with the Institute of Ethics at Georgetown University in Washington DC which earlier produced the authoritative *Encyclopaedia of Bioethics*. The focus, nevertheless, is clearly upon social science, and the conditions which distinguish such research from biological or medical research. Five contributors are psychologists, three are sociologists, two lawyers, one an anthropologist, three administrative scientists and five are philosophers. The emphasis is placed upon general issues throughout, although the last section discusses the scope of government regulation of research, a burning issue for the US social science community in recent years.

The papers are grouped in three core sections discussing harm and benefit in research, informed consent and deception, and the issue of privacy and confidentiality. A long introductory essay by Herbert Kelman of Harvard sets out some of the ethical principles involved, and discusses their application to different research methods such as the experiment, the survey and observational research. Ethical issues in research are rarely matters of black and white, and the contributors are concerned to define clearly the scope of their concern. What, for example, constitutes "harm" to the subject of research? Is it acceptable to lie to experimental subjects, provided that they are debriefed afterwards, or does the exposure to stress or indignity involved make such procedures unacceptable? If deception is used, what are the limits to which it can be pushed? Is it justifiable, as in Stanley Milgram's work on *Obedience to Authority*, to make subjects believe that they are administering possible lethal electric shocks as part of the experiment?

Several essays are particularly recommended. Donald Warwick provides a lucid review of the types of harm resulting from social research, from the effects on individuals involved to more general social consequences. Joan Cassell asks whether a risk-benefit calculus is applicable to the social sciences. Dorothy Nelkin considers the limits to inquiry in social science. Alexander Capron asks whether consent is always necessary in social research. Robert Boruch reviews methods of resolving privacy problems in the handling of data. Each section is rounded off by a discussion paper commenting on the preceding ones and helping to integrate the collection as a whole. Particularly incisive comments on some of the wilder claims of social scientists are provided by Alasdair McIntyre and Gerald Dworkin.

Despite its worth, three doubts arise from reading this set of papers. One is the feasibility of translating general ethical prescriptions into guidelines for practical action as a researcher. Can one specify what treating people as ends, not as means, involves in practice? A second reflection is that there are limits to normative prescription in this area. None of the contributors provides first-hand accounts of ethical issues that have arisen in research which they themselves have conducted. All are commenting on the work of others, and at times there is inevitably a holier-than-thou tone to the proceedings, tinged in one or two cases with Thomism.

The most substantial reservation is how far it is possible to treat ethical issues apart from the politics of research. In this respect the book is markedly inferior to the only recent work of similar scope, John Barnes's *Who Should Know What?* Though several contributors, notably Kelman and Warwick, devote explicit attention to wider social implications, there is no attempt to develop a theory of the place of the social sciences in society. Most contributors assume that social science is a professional activity whose overall impact is politically neutral. This to some extent reflects transatlantic differences. It is interesting to reflect, as this book does, that government regulation of social science research, through the mechanism of institutional review boards, has gone furthest in a social science community which generally eschews political commitment. Is the extent of regulation some measure of the greater impact of the social sciences in the United States?

Martin Bulmer

Dr Bulmer is lecturer in social administration at the London School of Economics.

Reason and moderation

The Social Dimensions of Development: social policy and planning in the Third World
by Margaret Hardiman and James Midgley
Wiley, £18.00 and £7.40
ISBN 0 471 10184 2 and 10193 1
Introduction to the Sociology of "Developing Societies"
edited by Hamza Alavi and Teodor Shanin
Macmillan, £12.95 and £5.95
ISBN 0 333 27561 6 and 27502 4

Nothing in the world is more important than the plight and the prospects of the poorest people in poor countries, where according to current estimates some 800 million or 20 per cent of humankind live in absolute poverty.

Margaret Hardiman and James Midgley's truly excellent book is about social welfare, not in the narrow do-good sense, but rather the wider consequences for human well-being of economic policies and development in the Third World. They are concerned with health, and hence with public health and welfare services, health education, preventive medicine and curative medical services; with infant mortality, and hence with demography, population trends, and family size; with nutrition, and hence with food, agriculture and rural development; with the growth of towns, and with it the rise not only of "social problems" in the old, narrow sense, but also with those housing and hygiene, squatter settlements, the informal sector, and organized communal self-help; and above all with the interrelated questions of poverty and inequality, bringing to the fore not just each country's average GNP per capita but also its distribution among households.

It is their distinctive achievement to have drawn together material on these wide-ranging yet interrelated aspects of development in an original and creative synthesis. Centrally, too, their concern is with planning purposive government action in these fields. Their work is aligned with the "neo-institutional" school of development economists, above all Gunnar Myrdal, who believe that not everything is determined by blindly impersonal economic forces, but that the conscious choices and deliberate policies of governments of more than one political hue can and do make a difference; and with those who like Hollis Chenery consider that there can be redistribution with growth, and can substantiate that view.

This is a work of wide and meticulous scholarship, richly documented. It is not a book for absolute beginners, assuming as it does some knowledge of economic concepts and institutions; but the authors' erudition sits lightly on them, and their prose is fluent and lucid. More, their judgments are notably fair, moderate, unprovocative, and always well informed, yet also where necessary firm and decisive. Theirs is the voice of humanity, reason, and moderation. Most of all perhaps, in the field of development studies, vitiated as it has been for a decade or more by a sterile opposition of two embattled orthodoxies talking past each other, this book notably advances a third way of looking at the Third World.

The collection of passages (some extracts, some newly written) edited by Hamza Alavi and Teodor Shanin is a sorry contrast. To open a book at random and read that "Mexico was the first victim of the 'green revolution'" does not encourage the reader to look for a balanced, impartial assessment of the costs and benefits of technical progress in tropical agriculture. Not all the contributions are quite as bad as that, though all are in some degree partisan. In some there are gleams of sense and reality amid the rhetoric, notably those by Henry Bernstein, Michael Barratt Brown, and Anthony Smith. Just one is worthy of a wider readership, that of Keith Griffin and Azizur Rahman Khan on poverty and landlessness in rural Asia. The factual evidence of their findings is impressive and their analysis cogent, and their contribution is only slightly marred by setting up Aunt Sally "fancy models" for demolition and neglecting obvious sources, especially Myrdal.

But the book as a whole, and particularly the selection and juxtaposition of items – even of such innocently neutral items as reports from *The Times* – can only be characterized as inadmissibly tendentious.

J. E. Goldthorpe

J. E. Goldthorpe is currently working on a new edition of his book "The Sociology of the Third World".

Debased currency

Understanding Deviance: a guide to the sociology of crime and rule-breaking
by David Downes and Paul Rock
Oxford University Press, £15.00 and £5.95
ISBN 0 19 876087 6 and 876086 8

During the past fifteen years or so academic criminology has been overtaken and almost eclipsed by the new emphasis on the sociology of deviance.

The pursuit of the sociology of deviance is, of course, much more romantic and exciting than the old-fashioned meticulous study of crime and the criminal. But the concept of deviance can never be accepted as an entirely satisfactory synonym for crime without creating some tricky logical problems. The deviance field indeed has become almost a Tom Tiddler's territory where rising sociologists can easily make a quick impression. Its borders are fluid, its definitions hazy, at the same time the door is opened invitingly to neo-Marxist theorists impatient with the slow pace of liberal reform and eager to get on with the creation of a truly socialist utopia.

Hence the time is ripe for an objective survey of the whole body of writing and research in the criminological and deviancy areas. David Downes and Paul Rock have done precisely this.

Their approach is historical, beginning with the brilliant Chicago School of urban sociology which flourished in the first half of the century and which produced such vivid studies as Worth's *The Ghetto*, Nels Anderson's *The Hobbo*, Thrasher's *The Gang* and Shaw and McKay's study of delinquency areas. From there we are led at mid-century to the influential work of the functionalists who, following Durkheim, tried to relate social structures and social needs in ways that did not treat crime and deviance as obviously pathological. A whole chapter is devoted to an examination of the concept of *anomie*. This is followed by a critique of subsequent sub-cultural theories stemming from Albert Cohen's seminal study of adolescent gang activities, until this approach was in its turn overtaken by the symbolic interactionist perspective which Lemert did much to promulgate.

After discussing the startling impact of phenomenology and ethnomethodology, the authors turn to the much simpler ideas of the social control theorists who emphasized the importance of opportunity structure and of prevention, among whom Oscar Newman with his notion of *Defensible Space* was influential. Downes and Rock cast a mildly optimistic eye over the social control perspective, although they shun the crude Hobbesian view that human nature is constrained to act morally only out of fear.

We then enter the much more controversial field of the radical criminology of the Birmingham School and the self-styled "new" criminologists, Taylor, Walton and Young, who a decade ago blasted holes through all traditional ideas and explanations. It is the nature of capitalist society, they argued, that produces crime and deviance and defines it for its own sinister purpose which is the suppression and control of the working class. Our old enemy "the ruling class" is brought back into the dock and accused of deploying criminal sanctions to support its own hegemonic interest by proscribing all versions of social reality hostile to their own.

Downes and Rock are pretty severe on these Marxist interpretations, suggesting that the radical criminologists, just like the ruling class they condemn, seek to impose their own version under the guise of social analysis. They conclude that the sociology of deviance "is not a single undertaking that has progressed to a neat conclusion" but a succession of different schools of thought, each insisting on its own preferred perspective. They point out that the subject is still largely confined to the world of books and academic seminars and carries very little weight with the man in the street or the average magistrate or MP, and they drily comment, "there may be an explosion of knowledge . . . but the sociology of deviance suffers from hyperinflation of a debased currency."

University life, in fact, encourages endless proliferation of superficial theories – at least in sociology departments – and the spawning of fresh ideas seems inevitably to go with the rejection of almost everything that has gone before.

Downes and Rock do not seem to be very optimistic about the future of sociology in general or of the sociology of deviance in particular, although they do seem to see a glimmering of hope in an interactionist approach amid the diversity and confusion that currently prevails.

John B. Mays

John B. Mays is emeritus professor of sociology at the University of Liverpool.

Class conscious

The Concept of Class: an historical introduction
by Peter Calvert
Hutchinson, £12.00 and £5.50
ISBN 0 09 146670 9 and 146671 7

Sociologists have been very persuasive in recent decades in showing that class has not withered away. Peter Calvert, who is a political scientist, argues in this interesting and informative book that it is high time that it did.

This is not an empirical study of class in society, nor an analysis of the utility of class as a concept of social explanation, but an intellectual history of the development of the usage of the concept of class. The range of writers considered, from the Ancient Greeks to contemporary social scientists, is extensive. The early part of the book, dealing with classical and medieval thought, is particularly useful, covering ground that is ignored in most books on class. Calvert clearly and tellingly makes his points that while the usages of the concept in these times were very different from modern usages, the influences of these earlier usages are still present in modern thought. The discussion of modern writers, covering more familiar ground, is generally competent and informative and wide ranging: British, European and American writers of Marxist and other persuasions are all considered.

Calvert concludes with the view that class is an evaluative concept, "used in phrases giving a favourable connotation to those things of which one approves and an unfavourable one to those things of which one does not approve", and is thus a concept on which it is not possible to obtain agreement. He certainly demonstrates the way the term has been used evaluatively, and, through a plethora of usages, the lack of agreement on its meaning. But this is hardly an adequate basis for his recommendation to abandon the concept altogether. The fundamental case for retaining or discarding a concept surely rests on its utility for social explanation, and Calvert has explicitly avoided this issue. He has, it is true, considered it implicitly, but this is not altogether to his credit. The book does not suffer from the defect of being quite unrelated to the real world that often characterizes conceptual discussions in the social sciences: Calvert is concerned to relate concepts to empirical facts and events. However, some of his "facts" – that Britain does not have a class structure as such, that workers as voters are unaware of nationalized industries, that class divisions did not exist in the Middle Ages, to give some examples – are somewhat dubious, and baldly stated without adequate evidence.

It might have been better if the author had restricted himself to conceptual analysis, which he could have carried much further. While he distinguishes at the outset between the label of a concept and its abstract entity, he does seem to be rather overconcerned with the former, with the precise use of words rather than with the development of ideas. For instance, his argument that the bourgeoisie developed long before capitalism depends on the fact that the label chosen by Marx derives from that given to town dwellers in the Middle Ages.

The real reason why Calvert wishes to abandon the concept of class is neither conceptual nor methodological, but political. To him, the idea of the division of society into classes is highly distasteful: as with racism and sexism, it is a basis for discrimination, and in extreme forms, such as occur with the designation of groups as "class enemies", may become a justification for inhumanity and mass slaughter. These are powerful arguments, but ones that might carry more weight in a rather differently constructed book.

David Berry

David Berry is senior lecturer and head of the department of sociology at University College, Cardiff.

NOTICE BOARD

Noticeboard is compiled by Patricia Santinelli and Mila Goldie

Recent publications

Scholarships Abroad 1983 gives a list of scholarships offered to British students by overseas governments and universities, to enable them to pursue their studies abroad. The handbook, which is published annually gives details of over 300 scholarships tenable for a full academic year as well as a number of bursaries available for shorter periods. The guide is widely available for reference in universities, other educational institutions and libraries. Intending applicants may obtain offprints describing the country or countries they are interested in from The British Council, 10 Spring Gardens, London SW1A 2BN.

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Civil Service Careers 1983 describes the opportunities for graduates and for those with professional qualifications and experience. It is divided into two main sections. In the first a list of opportunities open to graduates in any discipline is given. The second section describes careers where specific qualifications are needed. Available from Her Majesty's Stationery Office or from the management and personnel officer, Civil Service Commission, Alencon Link, Basingstoke RG21 1JB.

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One of the most important ingredients in ensuring quality in education, staff training and development is the main theme of a new report *Staff Training and Development for the New Youth Programmes* by Dudley Plunkett of Southampton University. The report which is published by the European Institute of Education and Social Policy argues that little progress in quality will be achieved unless appropriate measures to improve the quality of staff are taken. Mr Plunkett has gathered international evidence on how European countries approach this topic. Available from the European Institute of Education and Social Policy, c/o Universite de Paris IX Dauphine, Place du Marechal de Lattre de Tassigny, Paris.

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Whatever Next? 1983 the new edition of the University of East Anglia's annual guide to graduate employment is now available. It provides an up to date commentary on graduate employment prospects in 1983, and gives the usual complete list of the employers entered by all UEA graduates last year. Although it is written for final year undergraduates, it is also available to schools, colleges and anyone seeking admission to a degree course. It costs £1.50 from the Careers Centre, UEA, University Plain, Norwich NR4 7TJ.

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Profiting and Profile Reporting Vocational Preparation: Themes and Developments, a new Coombe Lodge, *report* opens with a paper on problems and progress with profiling as seen by Geoff Stanton, a development officer of the Further Education Unit. Other papers included in the report have been written by those involved on profiling in a variety of bodies such as City and Guilds, the Royal Society of Arts, the Technician Education Council. (Vol 1 available for the Further Education Staff College, Blagdon, Bristol BS18 £2.50).

Forthcoming Events

"Credit and security: economic orders and legal regimes" the seventh Crowther Memorial lecture is to be delivered by Professor David Allan, Sir Owen Dixon, professor of law, Monash University on October 25 at 5.30pm in the Drapers' Lecture Theatre of Queen Mary College, London University.

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"Socialism and the Educated Middle Classes in Europe 1880–1914", a seminar, is to be held from November 19 to 20 in the Open University North London Regional Office 527 Finchley Road, London NW3. Speakers include Wolfgang Mommsen, David Beetham, Stephen Yeo, Rodney Harrison and others. Advance registration essential. Please contact Carl Levy, faculty of educational studies O, Oswither Hall, the OU, Milton Keynes MK7 6AA.

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"Information Technology in the Polytechnics" a combined conference and exhibition is on Wednesday November 24 at Polytechnic of Central London. Fee £15 (for non members of the APT), £8 (member APT). Further information from APT, 27 Elphinstone Road, Southsea PO5 3HP.

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"Open entry – bridges and gateways", a one-day meeting arranged by the staff development unit, Manchester Polytechnic, on November 4 1982 in the All Saints Building, Manchester Polytechnic. The meeting will concern itself with the development of open access programmes and the identification of problems and opportunities in this and methods of delivering programmes and the different needs of potential clients. Papers will include "An Evaluation of Special Pilot Courses for entry to Higher Education" by P. K. C. Millings, and Norman Evans, senior fellow, The Policy Studies Institute. The day will also include group activities

"Problems of Practice" and "Return to Education". Closing date for application October 28 1982. Fee £9. Further information from Mrs A. Bromley, Staff Development Unit, Manchester Polytechnic, Bracken House, Charles Street, Manchester M1 7FA.

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As part of the SRHE/Leverhulme study programme into the future of higher education, a one day conference will be held on Friday November 12, in the Connaught Hall of the University of London. This conference will discuss the recommendations concerning the teaching function of higher education, which resulted from a seminar held in April. Further particulars from Dr Graham J. Sold, Bishop Otter College, West Sussex Institute of Higher Education, College Lane, Chichester, West Sussex PO19 4PE.

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UMIST public lectures, October 26, "A Revival of the Art of Building with Brick" by Malcolm Phipps, lecturer in structural engineering. November 9, "Industrial Crystallization: A Confluence of Science and Technology" by Joan Garside, professor of chemical engineering. November 23, "Oil from Waste" by Nogi McAuliffe, reader in chemistry. December 7 "Translating and the Computer" by Harold Somers, lecturer in applied linguistics and modern languages. All lectures are held at 6pm in the Renold Building. • • •

University of London Goldsmiths' College Public Lectures, Autumn Term 1982. Monday October 25, "James Joyce" by Professor Charles Peake Queen Mary College; Thursday November 11, "Thomas Mann" by Professor Martin Swales, University College London; Thursday November 25, "Albert Camus" by Dr Peter Dunwoodie, Department of French, Goldsmiths' College. All lectures begin at 5pm, Goldsmiths' College, Lewisham Way, New Cross SE14 6NW.

News

An ancient system of mathematics which reduces the most complex long division to a single line calculation is the subject of a course of six evening lectures to be held at the University of London Union commencing in November. The course which will deal with Vedic mathematics is being put on in association with the Polytechnic of North London from November 5 to December 10 and will cost £10, with a rebate of £5 for students

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The British Library is to begin work on a South Asian and Burma Retrospective Bibliography (SABREB) which, when completed, will comprise a comprehensive record to date of publishing in the region between the introduction of printing in the sixteenth century and 1960. The first stage of the bibliography, which is planned to take three years to complete, will be confined to works largely printed by European presses in the region between 1556 and 1800 and is expected to yield some 1,000 entries. The bibliography is to be compiled in machine readable form using the model established for the Eighteenth century Short Title Catalogue.

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How will the current wave of cuts affect higher education? Will they result in the contraction of services, a reduction in the quality of courses and teaching, increased pressure on faculty and administrators or, more optimistically, the introduction of new more efficient ways of doing things? The last possibility is less often considered but it provides the theme of this year's Society for Research into Higher Education's conference in Southampton from December 15 to 17. For details of the conference write to Dr Haydn Mathias, department of teaching media, Southampton University.

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An export licence on a rare manuscript about Jacobean court entertainment has been withheld for two months by Mr Paul Channon, the Minister for the Arts so as to give a public collection in the UK an opportunity to purchase it. The manuscript on vellum which is valued at £968 consists of an extract from household accounts of Queen Anne of Denmark, of which two entries are of particular significance, relating to Ben Jonson's *The Masque of Beauty*. Offers to buy the manuscript must be made by December 4. Information is available from the Expert Adviser who is the Keeper of Manuscripts, the British Library, Reference Division, Great Russell Street, London WC1.

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North Cheshire College, one of the institutions threatened with the loss of teacher training as a result of the Government spending cuts, has nevertheless been awarded a £34,000 research grant from Government funds through the Council of Educational Technology for a project on primary language programmes. The grant will enable a member of the college staff to work alongside a full time computer programmer and groups of primary school teachers will help to develop computer programmes designed to assist the language development of children in their schools.

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School leavers can now learn the rudiments of job hunting by watching a 25-minute video produced by the Careers and Occupational Information Centre of the Manpower Services Commission. Entitled "Game for a Job", the video takes the form of an imaginary television quiz show in which five hopeful teenagers pit their wits against each other in four different games. The games involve the writing of application letters, telephone techniques and the personal interview, from which the contestants are weeded out by a series of blunders, leaving only one survivor. Available in either VHS or Betamax from David Holding, COIC, MSC, Moorfoot, Sheffield S1 4BR, £35.

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The Bank of England is backing a Keele University lecturer who is to study the monetary policy of the United Kingdom in an international context. Mr Joseph Nellis, a lecturer in economics is to receive £1,500 from the Houblon-Norman fund which is administered by the Bank of England. Among the topics to be researched by Mr Nellis are Britain's decision not to join the European Monetary System and the abolition of UK exchange controls.

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The British Library's reading rooms in Bloomsbury and Colindale are to be closed for annual cleaning and checking during October and November. The Oriental Reading Room from October 18 to 23, the Manuscripts Students' Room, Great Russell Street from October 25 to 30, and the reading rooms of the Department of Printed Books at the same address from November 1 to 6.

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The raising of the Tudor warship, Mary Rose, provides a timely occasion for a British Library exhibition of manuscript documents and maps relating to the warship and its activities during the reign of Henry VIII. The exhibition which will be on until December 31 includes a variety of contemporary documents which illustrate the importance the king placed on the navy. This was modernised during his reign by an active programme of shipbuilding and improvements in naval ordnance and fortification.

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Widespread concern about the future of education system at all levels and the need for a major rethinking has led *The Guardian* newspaper, the Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation in collaboration with the Advisory Centre for Education and Youthaid to convene a national seminar at Salford University next April. Its theme will be "Education Challenge" and the organizers would welcome approaches or points of view from any body or group interested in the theme. Contact Ann Mynton, Calouste Gulbenkian Foundation, 98 Portland Place, London W1.

Jogen Chowdhury's portrait Nati Binodini in ink and pastel is one of the highlights of the current exhibition *Contemporary Indian Art*, which is at the Royal Academy of Art in London until October 31. Mr Chowdhury's work was shown at the Museum of Modern Art in Oxford earlier this year. He lives in Delhi where he is curator of paintings at the Rashtrapati Bhavan.

Courses

The origins of the Biafra war, the Green Revolution and the IMF are all topics to be discussed and studied in a new Open University home study course Third World Studies, which starts next February. The course deals with colonialism, production patterns, international links and development prospects, and will offer a wide variety of material including poverty maps, statistics and the writings of development theorists, historians and politicians. No qualifications or specific experience are required and anyone can register. There is a week long summer school and the fee for one year (32 weeks) part-time is £195 covering printed materials and tuition. Details and application from the OU Associate Student Central Office, PO Box 80, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AS.

Chairs

Dr B. C. Parekh, reader in the department of politics and Dr G. J. Pert, reader in the department of applied physics of the University of Hull, have both been awarded the title of professor from October 1.

Grants

Universities

Newcastle upon Tyne
Clinical Biochemistry and metabolic medicine – Dr Philip Home – £145,798 from The Wellcome Trust to study biochemical disturbances that occur in diabetics as a result of insulin treatment.

In our issue of October 8 under Grants for **Swansea University**, University College and **Singleton Hospital**: the amount granted by the Medical Research Council should have read £340,000 and not £24,000.

Polytechnics

Liverpool
Accounting and finance – J. B. Goodlad – £1,050 (supplementary) from the Research and Technical Committee of the Institute of Cost and Management Accountants to develop research into the viability of non managerial employee involvement in budgetary control

Conference

CALL FOR PAPERS
9th International Conference

IMPROVING UNIVERSITY TEACHING

July 6–9, 1983
DUBLIN
IRELAND
In cooperation with *National Institute for Higher Education, Dublin*

The Ninth Conference will focus on *the social dimensions and demands of teaching with technology*. Papers addressing this issue are especially welcome. We also invite papers, seminars and workshops on topics within our areas of continuing concern:

● better teaching ● better learning
● courses & curricula ● institutional support ● etc.

Papers and proposals are due 1 February 1983. Contributors will be notified in March. Registration deadline is 1 April 1983.

For submission guidelines and general Conference information, write:

Improving University Teaching
University of Maryland University College
University Boulevard at Adelphi Road
College Park, Maryland 20742, USA

Open University programmes October 22 to October 29

Saturday October 23

BBC2
10.10 Energy in the Home That's the Way the Money Goes (PS7932, prog 1)
10.35 Health Choices Stormy Weather (P921, prog 1)
11.00 The Pre-School Child Give and Take (P912: prog 11)
11.25 Governing Schools The Visit (P970)

Sunday October 24

BBC2
10.10* Open Forum: Open Lecture by Dr Robin Wilson "Solving Body Problems"
11.00* Science Foundation Course, Preparatory Maths – Numbers (S801: MAFN1)

RADIO 3 (VHF)
6.55* Governing Schools The New Governors (P970: prog 1)
7.15 The Pre-School Child Talking to Each Other (P912: prog 3)
7.35 Consumer Decisions Citizens' Advice (P931: prog 1)

* repeated programmes

THE NUFFIELD FOUNDATION

Social Science Research Fellowships

These Fellowships are to enable social scientists on the staff of universities and polytechnics in the United Kingdom to pursue their research interests on a full-time basis, free from teaching and administrative commitments. The awards will be for a minimum of one term and a maximum of a year. The Foundation will meet the research expenses of successful candidates, together with the cost to their institutions of replacement teaching during their leave of absence. The institutions are expected to pay the Fellows' salaries during the period of the Fellowship and to administer the payments made by the Foundation.

Application forms and further information from:
The Director
Nuffield Foundation
Nuffield Lodge
Regent's Park
London NW1 4RS
Closing date: December 31.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS

The Times Higher Education Supplement

To place advertisements write to or telephone:

The Advertisement Manager,
The Times Higher Education Supplement,
Priory House, St John's Lane, London EC1M 4BX.
Tel: 253 3000. Telex 264971

Rates:	Copy deadlines:
Classified Display – £9.50 pscc Min. size: 9cm×1 col @ £85.50 Classified Linage – £1.85 per line Minimum 3 lines @ £5.55 Box number – £2.00	Classified Display: Friday in the week prior to publication Classified Linage: Monday 10.00 am in the week of publication

Appointments

Universities
Fellowships
Research and Studentships
Polytechnics
Colleges of Higher Education
Colleges with Teacher Education
Colleges and Institutes of Technology
Technical Colleges
Colleges of Further Education
Colleges and Departments of Art
Administration
Overseas
Adult Education
Librarians
General Vacancies
Industry and Commerce

Other classifications

Exhibitions
Awards
Conferences and Seminars
Courses
Personal
For Sale and Wanted
Holidays and Accommodation

Universities

Southampton THE UNIVERSITY

CHAIR OF SPANISH

Applications are invited for the Chair of Spanish which has become vacant on Professor I. D. L. Michaels appointment to a Chair in Oxford.

Further particulars are available from the Secretary and Registrar, The University, Southampton SO9 5NH, to whom applications (one copy from candidates overseas and ten copies from others), should be submitted by 10 December, 1982.

University of Melbourne
LECTURER (CONTINUING) IN STRUCTURES AND LECTURER (CONTINUING)
in the
Department of Civil Engineering

Applications are invited for the above positions in the Department, to commence preferably on 1 March 1983.

The vacancies arise because of the need to replace expertise in the structural engineering area, particularly structural stability and dynamics, but other related interests will be considered including the specific requirements of agricultural engineering, for example with respect to solid mechanics.

The Department's five main sections of agricultural, hydraulic, soils, structures and transport support a four-year degree in both Agricultural Engineering and Civil Engineering and extensive formal courses associated with a Master of Engineering or Science as well as research degrees for Master and Ph.D.

Applicants should have an honours degree and preferably a higher degree with appropriate research and/or professional experience.

Salary in the range $20,953 to $27,559 per annum.

Further information regarding details of application procedure and conditions of appointment is available from the staff Officer, University of Melbourne, Parkville, Victoria 3052, Australia. (Tel: 347 6021). The Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Applications close on 12 November 1982. H1

University of Essex
LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN TELETRAFFIC ENGINEERING
in the Department of Electrical Engineering Science

Applications are inviting for a post as Lecturer/Senior Lecturer (salary scale £4,512–£10,938/£10,938–£13,962) in the Department of Electrical Engineering Science for appointment as soon as possible. In the field of Traffic Analysis of Modern Communications Networks and Switching Systems. This post is being established by British Telecom for an initial period of three years. Candidates should have an honours degree and relevant experience in communications engineering, computer engineering, computer science or mathematics related to queueing and queueing problems. The lectureship would suit applicants with either a background in communications engineering and wish to apply mathematical ability, wishes to develop an interest in traffic engineering or computer engineers with a good mathematical background related to queuing problems, interested in applying their knowledge to communications problems in exceptional circumstances. Candidates should have proven ability and skills in research, preferably in the engineering field. The appointment at senior lecturer level will be considered.

The Department of Electrical Engineering Science specialises in Electronic Systems with considerable research interest in Telecommunications, Computer Industry, Electronics Circuit Studies and Cable Display Systems. Computer Systems are under the Professor Application, Astral Processing.

Applications (nine copies), including a curriculum vitae and the names and addresses of two referees should be sent to the Registrar (AG/1467/TES), University of Essex, Wivenhoe Park, Colchester CO4 3SQ, from whom further particulars may be obtained, by 25 November 1982. H1

University of Kent Canterbury
RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN FORMAL VERIFICATION TECHNIQUES

Applications are invited for the post of Research Fellow (or Senior Research Fellow) on an SERC-funded project involving the development of techniques for the formal verification of the behaviour of digital systems and circuits. The initial four year project will combine theoretical investigations with practical implementations. Many of the techniques developed will be suitable for those used for the formal verification of microprocessors. Analysts should have a doctorate in computer science or mathematics or have equivalent experience. The post is available from 1 October 1982 or as soon as possible thereafter.

Salary in the professorial range, plus superannuation.

Further particulars available from the University Appointments Officer, The University, Canterbury, Kent CT2 7NZ, to whom completed applications should be returned by 15 November 1982. Please quote ref A25782/TIES. H1

University of Dundee
Department of Geology
LECTURER IN GEOLOGY

Applications are invited for the above post which is tenable from October 1st, or Professor's appointment to the University of Uppsala.

The Lecturer to be appointed as early as possible in 1983, will be expected not only to undertake research but to contribute to a range of teaching in a very active department, with emphasis on the practical aspects of Geology. Postgraduate experience in Engineering Geology and/or Applied Geology or appropriate industrial experience would be particularly welcome.

Salary scale £6,375 – £15,003 with placing dependent on qualifications and experience.

Further particulars are available from the Personnel Officer, The University, Dundee DD1 4HN (Tel: 0382 23421, ext. 283), with whom applications, including names of three referees, should be lodged by 12 November 1982. Please quote reference 82/83/42. H1

University of Birmingham
Department of Extramural Studies
DIRECTORSHIP

Applications are invited for the Directorship of the Department of Extramural Studies, tenable from 1 January 1983 following the retirement of the present Director. A Chair may be established for the successful candidate if opportunity so determines.

Salary in the professorial range, plus superannuation.

Further particulars available from the University Appointments Officer, The University, PO Box 363, Birmingham B15 2TT, to whom applications should be sent by 30 November 1982. Please quote reference 82/83/43. H1

University of The South Pacific

The University of the South Pacific, wishes to appoint a Fellow at the Atoll Research Unit, (ARU), Kiribati (82/87). ARU is located on Tarawa Atoll, with a marine laboratory, basic equipment including SCUBA and a small boat, and a vehicle. Its objectives are to investigate problems of atoll life, centred in particular terrestrial agricultural and coastal. The Fellow will be Director of ARU, under the Director, Institute of Marine Resources. Applicants should have experience in tropical marine science and/or fisheries, practical skills, an ability to work unsupervised and in isolation, and a knowledge of the problems of the South Pacific region.

Salary Scale: F$9,905–F$16,805 pa (£1 sterling = F$1.65451). The University has a small number of subsidised housing units within its establishments for which the British Government provides supplementation. Applicants in the present post carries no such benefits and is offered on local terms and conditions only.

Gratuity; appointment allowance; low-rental unfurnished accommodation; allowance in lieu of accommodation; three-year renewable contract; free passage; applications (3 copies) including a curriculum vitae and naming 3 referees, should be sent to the Registrar, University of the South Pacific, PO Box 1168 Suva, Fiji, to arrive no later than 24 November 1982. Applicants resident in the UK should also send 1 copy to the Overseas Educational Appointments Department, The British Council, 90/91 Tottenham Court Road, London W1P 0PT. Further details are available from either address. H1

University College of North Wales Bangor
TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP THROUGH THE MEDIUM OF WELSH

Applications are invited for the above appointment in the School of Education, to commence on 1st January 1983 or as soon as possible thereafter. Applicants should have a background in Educational Theory and preferably have experience of teaching through the Medium of Welsh.

The successful candidate will be expected to help in extending the Welsh-Medium teaching in the School of Education and to contribute to the organisation of in-service Welsh-Medium courses for teachers and others.

The appointment will be for two years (secondment might be arranged) and salary will be on the University Lecturer scale £6,375–£13,305 per annum.

Applications (two copies), giving details of qualifications and experience, together with the names and addresses of three referees, should be sent to the Registrar, University College of North Wales, Bangor, Gwynedd LL57 2DG (from whom further particulars may be obtained) to arrive not later than 13th November, 1982.

Applications will be acknowledged if accompanied by a s.a.e. H1

University of Hong Kong
LECTURESHIP IN CHINESE

Applications are invited for a post of Lecturer in Chinese History which is expected to be established from September 1983.

Applicants should have suitable qualifications in History, appropriate teaching experience at undergraduate and postgraduate level and research experience. Preference will be given to applicants with a special interest in Chinese intellectual history or History of Chinese Science.

Annual salary (superannuable) scale: HK$142,840–HK$171,410 (£1 = HK$9.90 approx.). Starting salary will depend upon qualifications and experience.

At current rates, salaries will not exceed 15% gross income. Housing benefits at a rental of 10% of salary, children's education allowances, leave and medical benefits are provided.

Further particulars and application forms may be obtained from the Association of Commonwealth Universities, (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, or from the Appointments Secretary, The University of Hong Kong, Pokfulam Road, Hong Kong, to whom completed applications should be sent as soon as possible and not later than 15 November 1982. H1

The University College of Wales Aberystwyth
TUTORSHIP IN LAW

Applications are invited for a temporary tutorship in Law, tenable for one year in the first instance. The post, which is tenable from 1 January 1983, carries a salary on the scale £5,985–£6,885 per annum according to qualifications and experience.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Registrar, University College of Wales, Aberystwyth SY23 1NG, to whom they should be returned as soon as possible. H1

University of Otago Dunedin New Zealand
ASSISTANT LECTURER IN RUSSIAN

Applications are invited for the position of Assistant Lecturer in the Department of Russian. Language and Literature from February 1983. The post is for three years.

The successful applicant should have a fluent command of spoken Russian and experience in the teaching of Russian as a foreign language. Though the Department is looking for a native speaker, proven teaching ability will be the most important criterion for selection. As well as the teaching of modern Russian language duties will include the preparation and organisation of language laboratory materials.

Salary: NZ$16,183 per annum to $18,732 per annum.

Further particulars are available from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, or from the Registrar of the University, P.O. Box 56, Dunedin, New Zealand.

Applications close on 30 November 1982. H1

University of Salford
Department of Aeronautical and Mechanical Engineering
RESEARCH FELLOW OR RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the above post in the Flight Control Systems Group. The project, funded by the SERC for a period of three years, is supervised by Dr A Bradshaw and Dr M A Woodhead, and involves the development, in collaboration with British Aerospace, of advanced active digital flight control systems.

The work will involve the application of multivariable control theory and the development of microprocessor-based flight control systems.

The appointment commencing January 1983 has initial salary scale £5,322–£6,276 (RA 2627a – £5085 pa for Research Fellow) and £4,512–£5,322 (RA 2627b – £3600 pa for Research Assistant).

Application forms obtainable from the Registrar, University of Salford, Salford M5 4WT (tel: 061-736 5843) to whom completed applications should be returned not later than 12 November 1982, quoting reference M/S/276/TIES. H1

All Souls College of Applied Theology
LECTURER/TUTOR IN NEW TESTAMENT

Applications are invited for the above post from September 1983 for an initial three years renewable.

The recently formed College aims to provide academic and practical training for ministry (3-year courses) and graduate studies. Applicants are actively considering the style of Christian work the College should adopt in the future.

Salary follows the London Diocesan scale and is £5,700 to £6,900. Superannuation 15% plus. Non-Anglicans provisions to apply.

Further particulars must arrive by 1st November. Principal, All Souls College of Applied Theology, 180 Kensington High Street, London W8 6SH. Closing date for applications November 29th 1982. H1

The Open University
Faculty of Arts
LECTURER/SENIOR LECTURER IN INTERNATIONAL HISTORY

Applications are invited for a temporary three-year post of lecturer or senior lecturer in international history to work on the course on Conflict and Security in the Nuclear Age. Candidates should be qualified in strategic or allied studies and the post could be filled by a seconded lecturer for which special salary arrangements would be made.

Salary scale: £6,375 – £15,180.

Further particulars and application forms are available from: The Staff Secretary, The Faculty of Arts, The Open University, Walton Hall, Milton Keynes, MK7 6AA (or Bletchley (0908) 653911 which has a 24 hour answering service).

Closing date for applications: 15th November 1982. H1

The University of Leeds
Department of Psychology
CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY

The Council of the University has approved the setting up of an Individual Chair in the filling of which the Council will consult with the Professorial Board. The Chair is tenable within the Faculty of Medicine and Biological Sciences. Applicants should be experienced in the teaching of Psychology for the Chair of Psychology will be responsible for the general teaching in Psychology. Within the present establishment of 9.5 lecturers in the University Department of Psychology, graduate courses are actively pursued in Clinical Psychology, Psychology of Ageing, Psychology of Deafness, Further details and application forms are available from the address.

Applications (two copies) stating age, qualifications and experience, and naming three referees should be sent to the Registrar, The University of Leeds, LS2 9JT, from whom further particulars may be obtained (please send s.a.e.). Closing date for receipt of applications 1 December 1982 quoting reference number 5/80/Mo.

Applicants from overseas may apply in the first instance by cable, naming three referees, if preferred, in the United Kingdom.

University of Cambridge
SENIOR ASSISTANT REGISTRARY (UNIVERSITY DRAFTSMAN)

Applications invited for the above office tenable from 1 October 1983 or earlier according to previous experience. The draftsman is responsible for University administrative publications and for handling the progress of University business through them.

Pensionable stipend (under review) £15,410 (or exceptionally £16,940).

Applications, marked 'Confidential', with curriculum vitae and the names of up to three referees, should be sent to the Registrary, from whom further information may be obtained, at the University Registry, The Old Schools, Cambridge, CB2 1TN.

Closing date: 15 November 1982. H1

University of London
CHAIR OF PSYCHOLOGY TENABLE AT THE INSTITUTE OF PSYCHIATRY

The Senate invite applications for the above Chair, which will become vacant when Professor H. Eysenck retires on 30 September 1983.

Applications (10 copies) should be submitted to the Academic Registrar, University of London, Senate House, Malet Street, London, WC1E 7HU, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

Closing date 4 January 1983. H1

University College London
TEMPORARY LECTURESHIP
Social Anthropology

Applications are invited for a temporary lectureship of six months from 1 January 1983. The successful candidate will be expected to teach an advanced course in political anthropology and/or ethnography of a selected area. The appointment will be made at the bottom of the lecturer scale.

Applications by 30 October 1982 giving the names of two referees to Assistant Registrary (Personnel), University College London, Gower Street, London WC1E 6BT, from whom further particulars may be obtained.

University of Cambridge
TREASURER

The University of Cambridge invites applications for the office of Treasurer, which will fall vacant on 1 October 1983 on the retirement of the present holder. The emoluments of the office include a salary of £20,000 a year, and this rate is under review.

Persons interested in applying for the office are asked to seek full particulars from The Vice-Chancellor's Office, The Senate House, Cambridge, CB2 1TS.

The closing date for applications will be 19 November 1982. H1

The University of Auckland New Zealand
SOCIOLOGY – LECTURESHIP

Applicants with qualifications in any branch of Sociology will be considered. Those applying should indicate clearly whether their research and teaching interests lie Salaries within the range NZ$21,660 – £25,684 per annum.

Conditions of Appointment and Method of Application are available from the Assistant Registrar (Academic Appointments), University of Auckland, Private Bag, Auckland, New Zealand, or from the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF. Applications to be forwarded as soon as possible but not later than 10 December 1982. H1

Imperial College of Science and Technology
SENIOR ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT

Required to undertake a wide and interesting range of duties in the general financial administration of the College. Candidates should have a relevant professional accountancy qualification, preferably experience in an educational institution and/or a knowledge of the use of computers in accounting would be advantageous. Salary in Administrative Grade scale (£11,705 to £14,540).

Further particulars and application forms obtainable from Financial Secretary, Imperial College, Keppel Street, London WC1E 7AZ. (01-589 5111 ext. 3033), to whom applications should be sent by 17th November. H1

University of Cambridge
RESEARCHER

Applications are invited for the above post in the Department of Pharmacology to work on the molecular biology of the nicotinic acetylcholine receptor. The post is available for 3 years in the first instance. Applicants should have a good honours degree in biochemistry or a related subject and preferably some experience in molecular biology. Salary will be on the Research Assistant scale (£5,322–£6,276) according to qualifications and experience.

Applications, including the names of two referees, should be sent to Dr. J. Lindstrom, Department of Pharmacology, Hills Road, Cambridge CB2 2QD. H1

Polytechnics

pcl

Secretary and Clerk to the Court of Governors

Applications are invited for this post from suitably qualified candidates with extensive experience in administration at a senior level. Salary within the range of £18,468–£19,908 inclusive of London Allowance.

Further particulars from:
The Establishment Officer
PCL
309 Regent Street
London W1R 8AL
Tel: 01-580 2020, Ext. 212

Closing date for applications 20th November 1982.

The Polytechnic of Central London

SUNDERLAND POLYTECHNIC
Faculty of Engineering
Department of Mechanical Engineering
LECTURER IN STRENGTH OF MATERIALS
Re-Advertisement

Salary scale:
Lecturer II £6,855–£10,173 Bar £11,022 pa.

Applicants should have a degree in Mechanical Engineering or equivalent. Main duties will be the teaching of Strength of Materials. Experience in research would be an advantage.

An application form and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, Sunderland Polytechnic, Langham Tower, Ryhope Road, Sunderland SR2 7EE, or Tel: Sunderland 76231, Ext. 11. Closing date 5th November 1982.

Universities continued

UNIVERSITY OF ZIMBABWE

Applications are invited for the following posts:

PROFESSOR (1 post)
and
LECTURESHIPS/SENIOR LECTURESHIPS (2 posts)
DEPARTMENT OF RADIOLOGY (available immediately)

Applicants should have extensive experience of the speciality and an appropriate postgraduate Radiological qualification.

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHIATRY (available 1st January 1983)

Applicants should have a Master's degree in Clinical Psychology and should have experience in delivery of services to adults. Preference will be given to candidates experienced in delivery of community-based services. The appointee will be responsible for the training of students reading for the MSc in Clinical Psychology and the teaching of medical students and nurses.

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP
DEPARTMENT OF PSYCHOLOGY (available 1st January 1983)

Teaching responsibilities will be at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels, and include general introductory psychology, physiological and medical psychology, experimental psychology, statistics and psychometrics. Applications would also be welcome from those with qualifications and practical experience in applied psychology, especially applied social psychology, industrial psychology and personnel psychology.

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIOLOGY (available early 1983)

Applicants should have qualifications in Sociology/Social Anthropology. Preference may be given to applicants with expertise in demography, methodology or industrial sociology.

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATIONAL FOUNDATIONS
(available 1st January 1983)

Preference will be given to candidates with a doctorate in the special areas of Developmental Psychology or Psychometrics. The post entails designing and teaching courses in Educational Psychology at the B.Ed., Grad. C.E., M.Ed., M.Sc. levels as well as supervision of higher degree students at the M.Phil., D.Phil. levels. The successful candidate will also be expected to contribute to a course in Educational Research Methods as well as pursue his/her own research interests.

LECTURESHIP/SENIOR LECTURESHIP
DEPARTMENT OF HISTOPATHOLOGY (available immediately)

Applicants must have MRCP or equivalent in Histopathology and Clinical Oncology. The successful candidate will be expected to teach these subjects to medical students and to carry out service work including biopsy reporting and autopsies. The appointee will also be involved in postgraduate training in Pathology.

LECTURESHIPS/SENIOR LECTURESHIPS (2 posts)
DEPARTMENT OF PHYSICS

Applicants will be expected to hold at least an honours degree in Physics. Preference will be given to a candidate with a Ph.D. or equivalent postgraduate qualification.

Position 1 (available 1st January 1983): Preference will be given to a candidate with expertise and research interest in either Solid State Physics or Solid Earth Geophysics.

Position 2 (available 1st March 1983): Preference will be given to a candidate with expertise in Electrical Circuitry, Electronics and Instrumentation.

SALARY SCALES:

Non-Medical	
Lecturer Grade II	Z$8,016 x 516 – 9,564 x 552 – 13,428
Lecturer Grade I	Z$13,980 x 396 – 16,584
Senior Lecturer	Z$15,000 x 480 – 16,840
Professor	Z$19,452 x 612 – 20,676 x 840 – 23,196
Medical	
Assistant Lecturer	Z$11,664 x 432 – 13,392
Lecturer Grade II	Z$14,688 x 432 – 15,120 x 468 – 15,588 x 480 – 17,508
Lecturer Grade I	Z$17,868 x 480 – 19,908
Senior Lecturer	Z$20,100 x 600 – 22,500 x 504 – 23,004
Professor	Z$24,000 x 324 – 25,620

Appointment on above scales according to qualifications and experience.

Conditions of Service: Both permanent and short-term contracts are offered. Persons who are not Zimbabwean citizens may be appointed only on a short-term contract basis with an initial contract period of two years. Short-term contracts may, in exceptional cases, be extended.

Six copies of Applications giving full personal particulars (including full name, place and date of birth etc.) qualifications, employment to date and experience, present salary, date of availability, telephone number and names and addresses of three referees should be addressed to the Director, Appointments and Personnel, University of Zimbabwe, PO Box MP 167, Mount Pleasant, Harare, Zimbabwe, from whom further particulars are available on request.

Overseas applicants should send a further copy of their application to the Association of Commonwealth Universities (Appts), 36 Gordon Square, London WC1H 0PF, from whom further particulars also available.

Closing date for receipt of applications is *30 November 1982*, except for the post in the Department of Psychology, which is *11 November 1982*.

CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS
To Advertise in the THES
Please phone Jane McFarlane on 01-253 3000, Ext 233
The Times Higher Education Supplement
Priory House, St. Johns Lane, London EC1M 4BX

PLYMOUTH POLYTECHNIC

HEAD OF COMPUTER CENTRE

The Polytechnic seeks a person with energy, drive and extensive professional experience to give strong leadership in this important senior post. Exciting developments are taking place in computing for teaching, research and administration, including the recent establishment of a new honours degree in Computing and Informatics.

Salary: Head of Department Grade V with the possibility of Grade VI in appropriate circumstances, £14,679–£17,490.

Application forms to be returned by Tuesday 16th November, 1982 can be obtained with further particulars from the Personnel Officer.

Drake Circus, Plymouth, Devon. PL4 8AA

Middlesex Polytechnic

Lecturer in Social Work
LII/SL: £7,404–£13,365 pa Inc.

to teach Social Work with Offenders including Probation Practice. Candidates must be graduates and professionally qualified social workers with substantial experience in practice or teaching.

A commitment to higher degree studies, research and publication is required.

Write quoting ref. A308B for further details and an application form, posting first class to: Personnel Office, Middlesex Polytechnic, 114 Chase Side, London N14 5PN. Closing date November 5.

Informal enquiries are welcomed by Frank Ainsworth, Head of School of Social Work, Middlesex Polytechnic, Queensway, Enfield, Middlesex EN3 4SF. Tel: 01-804 8131, Ext. 245.

Department of Chemical Engineering

LECTURER II/ SENIOR LECTURER

Salary £6,855–£12,516

Applications are invited from qualified chemical engineers for the above post to work in the Academic Registrars Section at the Stoke site of the Polytechnic.

Applicants should be graduates or equivalent with appropriate complementary experience, preferably within Higher Education.

All applicants are asked to state if he is the County Council's view that it is desirable for their employees to be members of the appropriate Trade Union.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DE.

Closing date: 1st November, 1982. H1

North Staffordshire Polytechnic Stoke-on-Trent

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT (RESEARCH AND REGISTRATION)

£5,658 – £7,137 per annum

Applications are invited for the above post to work in the Academic Registrars Section at the Stoke site of the Polytechnic.

Applicants should be graduates or equivalent with appropriate complementary experience, preferably within Higher Education.

All applicants are asked to state if he is the County Council's view that it is desirable for their employees to be members of the appropriate Trade Union.

Application forms and further particulars may be obtained from the Personnel Officer, North Staffordshire Polytechnic, College Road, Stoke-on-Trent, ST4 2DE.

Closing date: 1st November, 1982. H1

The Polytechnic of Wales

Newcastle Upon Tyne Polytechnic
School of Librarianship and Information Studies
RESEARCH WORKER (RESEARCHER A)
(Temporary Appointment for 2 months)

Open Learning Graduate Research Worker required to design packages relating to the organisation of statistical data for libraries and information scientists. Applicants should have a qualification in Librarianship and/or Computing Science and a knowledge of Statistics and Research methods.

Salary Range: £5,355 – £6,039 per annum

For further details and application forms, return-able by 12 November 1982, please call our 24 hour telephone answering machine (0632 328161) or send a stamped addressed envelope to the Personnel Officer, Newcastle upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Building, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne, NE1 8ST. H1

Polytechnic of the South Bank
Borough Road, London SE1 0AA

Faculty of the Built Environment

Faculty Office Manager

Salary up to £9,885 per annum inclusive of London Allowance

Applications are invited from suitably qualified candidates with relevant experience for the post of Office Manager in the Faculty of the Built Environment. The person will be responsible to the Dean for the efficient operation of the Faculty Office including responsibility for administering all examinations, records, fees and short courses.

Application forms and further details from the Staffing Office, tel: 01-928 8989 Ext 2356.

The closing date for receipt of completed applications forms will be 5th November 1982. H1

Polytechnics continued

Leicester Polytechnic
School of Land and Building Studies

PRINCIPAL LECTURER OR SENIOR LECTURER OR LECTURER II IN URBAN LAND ECONOMICS (Post No 376)

Applications are invited from well qualified economists to teach economic principles to students on full-time and part-time land management, building surveying and building courses, to interest in the economics of the property market, urban planning and development and/or the construction industry is an essential requirement.

The preferred candidate is likely to possess a good honours degree in economics with experience of teaching at degree level. However, candidates in practice with good academic qualifications, preferably an honours degree in economics, with membership of a professional body such as RICS or RTPI will also be considered.

Salary Scales: PL £11,931 – £13,290, (bar) £15,018; SL £10,173 – £11,964 (bar) £12,816; LII £6,855 – £11,022.

Application forms and further details available from the Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, P.O. Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel: (0533) 551551 ext 2303.

To discuss the post informally ring David Chibnik on ext 2334/2372. H3

Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology Aberdeen

HEAD OF SCOTT SUTHERLAND SCHOOL OF ARCHITECTURE

High academic qualifications and appropriate experience in Higher Education and as a practising architect required. Academic leadership and research interest essential.

Salary £17,847 per annum.

Removal expenses assistance.

Details from Secretary, Robert Gordon's Institute of Technology, St Nicholas, Aberdeen AB9 1FR. (0224 636311). H3

Newcastle Upon Tyne Polytechnic
School of Government

LECTURER II IN GOVERNMENT

The successful candidate will be expected to contribute to the undergraduate teaching in Government and the management of Public Policy. He will have qualifications in Political Science or a closely related discipline. Special knowledge of the application of Organisation Theory to central and local government and a willingness to teach courses in Police Studies will be an advantage.

Burnham FE LII: £6,855 – £11,022 per annum.

For further details and application form, returnable by 5 November 1982, please call our 24 hr telephone answering service (0632 333136) or send a stamped addressed envelope to the Personnel Officer, Newcastle Upon Tyne Polytechnic, Ellison Place, Newcastle upon Tyne NE1 8ST. H3

Leicester Polytechnic
School of Electronic and Electrical Engineering

PRINCIPAL LECTURER IN DIGITAL COMMUNICATION SYSTEMS (Post No 210)

Applicants should have a degree and corporate membership of an appropriate Engineering Institution. The person appointed will have significant industrial and/or research experience in digital communication equipment and systems. Software and hardware capabilities essential. Responsibilities include the development of research, teaching and consultancy to ensure that modern communication systems engineering is a major area of work in the School.

Salary £11,931 – £13,290 (bar) to £15,018 per annum.

Application forms and further details available from the Personnel Office, Leicester Polytechnic, PO Box 143, Leicester LE1 9BH. Tel (0533) 551551 ext 2303. H3

Fellowships

The Leverhulme Trust

RESEARCH AWARDS ADVISORY COMMITTEE
INDIVIDUAL AWARDS FOR 1983

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND GRANTS

Awards of up to £9,600 to senior persons pursuing their own investigations (but not for higher degree or equivalent).

Awards tenable for 3 months to 2 years. No subject of enquiry excluded. Applicants must have been educated in the U.K. or other part of the Commonwealth and be normally resident in the U.K.

Application form F2C. Closing date Tuesday, 16th November, 1982.

EMERITUS FELLOWSHIPS

Awards of up to £3,400 a year for 1 or 2 years to persons who have recently reached or are about to reach retirement age to enable them to complete research. Persons with an established record of research who have retired early may also be considered.

Applicants must have held academic positions in universities or other institutions of similar status in the U.K.

Application form F4C. Closing date Wednesday, 1st December, 1982.

Applications on the appropriate form must be in the hands of the Secretary not later than the date specified and cannot be considered if arriving after that date.

Application forms and further information from The Secretary, Research Awards Advisory Committee, The Leverhulme Trust, 15-19 New Fetter Lane, London EC4A 1NR. Telephone 01-822 6952. H

University of London
Warburg Institute

FRANCES A. YATES FELLOWSHIPS

Long-term tup to 3 years and short-term tuplips for periods of 2–3 months for other researches at the Warburg Institute. Fellowships will be tenable as from 1 October 1983. Grants up to £6,000 p.a. (tax free) according to age, qualifications and experience. Fellowships will be tenable for long-term up to a maximum of 3 years and short-term up to a maximum of 3 months.

Candidates should have at least two years' experience of research, those over 35 are not eligible only if they intend taking up the tenure from an established post.

Applications by 25 November to the Director, Warburg Institute, Woburn Square, London WC1H 0AB. From whom further particulars are obtainable. H3

St. Hilda's College Oxford

MCILRATH JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The College invites applications from women graduates of any university in the world, to be considered for the McIlrath Junior Research Fellowship in Studies in Government, Politics, or the United Kingdom or the Commonwealth or of Europe and eligible to apply, if in London for two years from October 1983. Tenable for a further year. The fellowship will be at least £3,360 p.a. The Fellow is entitled to free board residence.

Further particulars from the College Secretary. Completed applications (3 copies) by 4th January 1983. H

Merton College Oxford

JUNIOR RESEARCH FELLOWSHIPS AND SENIOR SCHOLARSHIPS 1983

The college proposes, if candidates of sufficient merit present themselves, to elect to two or three Junior Research Fellowships and to two or three Senior Scholarships in 1983. These awards are open to both men and women.

Details of the awards and of the method of applying for them may be obtained from the Warden's secretary, Merton College, Oxford, OX1 4JD. The closing date for applications is Saturday 18 December 1982. H2

University of Cambridge
St Catharine's College

RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP

The Governing Body of St Catharine's College invites applications from men or women for election to a Research Fellowship tenable without restriction as to subject from 1st October 1983 for three years. Candidates must be graduates of a university and under thirty years of age on 1st October 1982. Further particulars are available from the Secretary to the Research Fellowship Committee. H2

Colleges of Higher Education

SYSTEMS ANALYSIS AND DESIGN PRINCIPAL LECTURER or LECTURER II/SENIOR LECTURER

Applications are invited from persons able to offer specialist knowledge in applications of information technology such as Information Systems Management, Distributed Databases, Communications Management and Networking. For an appointment at PL grade proven academic leadership is required, together with an established and continuing research interest in Systems Methodologies.

PL £11,931–£13,290 (Bar)£15,018
SL £10,173–£11,964 (Bar)£12,816
LII £6,855–£11,022

Application forms and further details from: **The Personnel Office, Hull College of Higher Education, Inglemire Avenue, Hull HU6 7LU. Tel: (0482) 446504.**

Readvertisement. Previous applicants will be considered without reapplication.

Full and fair consideration will be given to all disabled applicants.

Hull College of Higher Education

READER IN ELECTRONICS/ MICROPROCESSOR APPLICATIONS
£11,931–£15,018

Applications are invited from persons active in research with proven experience of research supervision. Preference will be given to applicants who have some experience in the field of Computing Engineering, or Process Monitoring and Control or Digital Data Transmission.

Application forms and further details from: **The Personnel Office, Hull College of Higher Education, Inglemire Avenue, Hull HU6 7LU. Tel: (0482) 446506.**

Readvertisement. Previous applicants will be considered without reapplication.

Full and fair consideration will be given to all disabled applicants.

Hull College of Higher Education

Christ Church College of Higher Education
Canterbury

LECTURER II SENIOR LECTURER MATHEMATICS

Required for January 1983 or as soon as possible thereafter, a Senior Lecturer in Mathematics to teach Mathematics for Computer Science courses and Mathematics to Advanced level students.

The college offers BA, BEd and BSc Degree Courses leading to qualification to teach in Primary and Secondary Schools and Mathematics to Advanced level students.

Salary: Lecturer II Scale Lecturer II £6,855 – £11,022 p.a.

For further details write to Mrs J. Long, Personnel Assistant, at the college. Please quote reference number on envelope. To whom applications should be sent as soon as possible and not later than 4 November. H

Bedford College of Higher Education

LECTURER II IN EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY/ EDUCATIONAL STUDIES

Applications are invited for the above post in connection with the following responsibilities: Initial responsibility for Educational Technology, including the development of learning packages for production work and consultancy work in the use of learning materials.

Good school experience is essential together with academic qualifications and technical expertise.

Further particulars and application forms available from the Personnel Officer, Bedford College of Higher Education, 4 Cauldwell Walks, Bedford MK41 9EH. H

Colleges with Teacher Education

Phillip
Institute of Technology.

Phillip Institute of Technology operates two campuses in the northern suburbs of Melbourne, Australia with courses offered in nine Schools.

Principal Lecturer and Head of Leisure Studies Department

As the Head of Department, the incumbent will take major responsibility for the Bachelor of Arts (Recreation) and Graduate Diploma (Recreation) courses. Applicants are expected to possess an appropriate higher degree, have extensive experience in teaching at tertiary level and a background of sound academic and administrative leadership.

$AAust.34,285 or $35,680 or $37,071.

Initial enquiries may be directed to Dr. Peter Reichenbach, Head of School of Physical Education and Leisure Studies on 468 2353.

Applications for this tenured position close Monday, 17 January, 1983.

Written applications by the closing date, including the names and addresses of three referees should be forwarded to the Personnel Manager, Phillip Institute of Technology, Plenty Road, Bundoora 3083, Victoria, Australia. 16706

Research & Studentships

University of Warwick
Department of Engineering

RESEARCH ASSOCIATES

Two vacancies exist for young, ambitious engineers or scientists with a good degree or equivalent, to assist with research projects in Computer Manufacturing Systems Unit of the Engineering Department. Candidates should preferably have some relevant industrial experience gained during vacations or immediately after graduating. Associates will be based at the University but may be required to spend some time in a manufacturing company as part of the research work. The posts are available for a fixed period of two years on the Research Range 1B scale: £8,855–£9,885 pa.

Application forms and further details from the Assistant Registrary, University of Warwick, Coventry CV4 7AL, quoting the Ref. No: 9/A/9801. Closing date November 8th 1982. H10

Durham University
Geological Sciences Department

POSTDOCTORAL RESEARCH ASSISTANT

Applications are invited for the post of Postdoctoral Research Assistant to work on the structure and fabric of thrust belts and their mechanism of emplacement in parts of the Alpine belt of Europe and the Middle East. The research is under the direction of Professor J. Coward and will include a substantial fieldwork component.

The post is funded for two years by the NERC.

Salary is in the Range £6,375–£8,910 per annum on Range 1A plus superannuation.

Applications (3 copies) naming three referees should be sent by 15 December 1982 to the Geological Sciences Laboratories, South Road, Durham DH1 3LE, from whom further particulars may be obtained. H10

The University of Sussex

RESEARCH APPOINTMENT

For two years from 1st November 1982, or as soon as possible thereafter, to work on an SSRC-supported project on computer analysis of parliamentary sessions of House of Commons Division Lobby, under the direction of Miss Cromwell. Applicants should be graduates in mathematics or statistics, with experience in computing and data analysis.

Salary, according to qualifications, age and experience will be on the Research and Analogous Staff Grade 1A salary scale: £6,855 to £8,553 (or 1A 24/78 to 27/81 for persons over 25) plus membership of the Universities Superannuation Scheme.

Further particulars and an application form, returnable as soon as possible, are obtainable from the Personnel Officer, Sussex House, University of Sussex, Falmer, Brighton, East Sussex BN1 9RH (01-6067678 ext 4244 (24 Stepney). H10

Exhibitions

Science & Technology in 19th Century Germany

An exhibition of technical drawings and of technical publications from the Deutsches Museum, Munich (Germany) will be on display from Monday–Friday 12–5, Saturday 10–1 at Goethe-Institut, 50 Princes Gate, Exhibition Road, SW7. H

Miscellaneous

South Glamorgan County Council
Education Department

STUDENT COUNSELLOR/ CO-ORDINATOR OF ALL STUDENT SERVICES SG2 £8,991–£9,528 p.a.

Ref A56. Applications are invited from appropriately qualified persons for this post within the South Glamorgan Institute of Higher Education at Cardiff. The person appointed will also provide the counselling function for the College of Further Education at Barry and Rumney and the Nursery College of Music and Drama. Previous student counselling experience is very desirable, but applicants with relevant experience in other areas (e.g. Social Work) will be considered.

The successful candidate will be required to attend evening meetings and visits within the area in relative with outside authorities. Previous experience of teaching a degree subject an advantage. Car essential.

Pay Award Pending. Applicants for application forms (accompanied by a stamped addressed envelope) to the Personnel Management Council Officer, Floor, Glamorgan Building, King Edward VII Avenue, Cardiff. Closing date 4th November, 1982. H

Colleges with Teacher Education

Inner London Education Authority
Avery Hill College
Bexley Road, Eltham, SE9 2PQ Tel: 01-850 0681

PRINCIPAL LECTURER AND HEAD OF MATHEMATICS SECTION

Required as soon as possible a well-qualified and experienced graduate to lead the work of the section mainly concerned with teacher education. The College has a well established B.Ed. (Hons) degree with specialisms in Mathematics in both secondary and primary areas. PGCE courses in Mathematics and professional diploma in Mathematics in Primary education. Candidates should relate their main teaching and research interests.

Salary scale: £11,931–£13,290 (bar) £15,018 (plus £834 Inner London Allowance) subject to formal approval.

Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Principal, to whom completed forms should be returned within 2 weeks of the appearance of this advertisement. H6

Colleges of Further Education

Surrey Education Committee
North East Surrey College of Technology

Department of Applied Science

SENIOR LECTURER IN MATHEMATICS

Applications are invited for the above post to be filled as from 1 January 1983.

Salary: Senior Lecturer £10,173–£11,964 per annum. B.Ed. Plus £231 pa London Fringe Allowance. Generous relocation expenses in approved cases.

A stamped addressed envelope please for further particulars and application forms from the Vice-Principal, Reinate Road, Ewell, Epsom, Surrey KT17 3DS. H7

Administration

Help shape the future of British Engineering

Executive Officers **London** **c.£12,000 pa**

The Engineering Council which was recently established "... to advance the knowledge and best practice of engineering in the United Kingdom ..." requires two Executive Officers in the Education & Training Directorate. They will share prime responsibility for initiating policies, and devising programmes in support, on the education and training of professional engineers and technicians to meet the many challenges facing engineering in this country.

Responsibilities will embrace such aspects as the standard and content of formal education courses and industrial training, the development of technological literacy and capability in schools, the introduction of commercial awareness among engineers – The "Young Engineer for Britain" competition for schools and the Prince of Wales Award for Industrial Innovation and Production are both examples of these.

Both posts require a knowledge of the education system (Schools/FE/HE), some experience of industrial training and an insight to the workings of the Professional Engineering Institutions. Proven administrative ability is essential and a knowledge of the schemes for improving relationships between education and industry would be invaluable.

Candidates, aged 28-38, will be graduates in a branch of engineering with administrative or management experience and will hold membership of a recognised professional body.

REWARDS: Starting salary c.£12,000 p.a., excellent benefits, relocation allowance and enviable working conditions.

If you care enough about the future of engineering in this country – write to or telephone The Engineering Council's adviser on these appointments – Paul Sinha (Director), Sinclare Associates, "Speldhurst", Brittains Lane, Sevenoaks, Kent TN13 2NG. ☎0732-460203 quoting Ref. No. 5375.

Sinclare Associates
Management and Personnel Consultants
London · Birmingham · Sevenoaks

Senior Administrative Assistant
FURTHER EDUCATION AWARDS SECTION

Required to take charge of Section of nine dealing primarily with administration of grants to students attending courses of Further and Higher Education, and also with F.E. Recognition. Post offers responsibility and variety. Applicants should be able to write clearly and concisely, especially for reports to committees. Possession of HNC/HND or equivalent standard qualification desirable. Post permanent and superannuable.

Salary within scale £7,620–£9,261 (Pay Award pending). Starting point dependent upon qualifications and experience. Generous removal and resettlement expenses available.

Application forms and details may be obtained from the Director of Education, County Hall, Chichester, West Sussex, PO19 1RF, on receipt of s.a.e.

Closing date: 5th November, 1982.

Re-advertisement – previous applicants need not re-apply.

West Sussex COUNTY COUNCIL

UNIVERSITY OF EAST ANGLIA
Norwich
OVERSEAS DEVELOPMENT GROUP

Applications are invited for the post of

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT

in the Overseas Development Group. Candidates must have administrative, financial and secretarial experience and should preferably have a good honours degree. Experience in overseas countries or institutions/agencies concerned with development would be advantageous.

Salary on Administrative Grade 1B scale (£6,560–£9,370 per annum).

Applications (three copies), giving names of three persons to whom reference may be made, should be lodged with the Establishment Officer, University of East Anglia, Norwich NR4 7TJ (tel: 0603-56161, Ext. 2126) from whom further particulars may be obtained, not later than 12 November 1982. No forms of application are issued.

Overseas

Post of Scientific Secretary (UK)

International Social Science Council
European Coordination Centre for Research and Documentation in Social Sciences
(Vienna Centre)

The Social Science Research Council invites nominations from departments to fill the above-named post in Vienna from 1 January 1983 to 31 October 1985.

Candidates can be on secondment from or sponsored by a UK university, institution of higher education or research, and will need to demonstrate proven experience in scientific administration. They should possess a reasonable competence in French and possibly one other European language and should be interested in European-wide theoretical issues. They will be able to pursue their own research if in one of the Centre's main areas of interest.

Salary will be on the Research Fellow Range 1A scale between £6,375 and £8,610 and will, in addition, attract an overseas allowance of £1,775 pa.

Further information on the Vienna Centre can be obtained from Registrars and appropriate social science departments. There are no application forms: written nominations from departments should consist of a full curriculum vitae and a covering letter from both the Head of Department and the nominee. They should be sent to Dr John Mallin, (Vienna Centre), Social Science Research Council, 1 Temple Avenue, London, EC4Y 0BD, not later than *17 November 1982.* It is expected that interviews will be held in December and that the successful candidate will take up post as soon as possible after 1 January 1983.

SSRC

Personal

IMMEDIATE ADVANCES £100 to £50,000. Written terms on request. Regional Trust Ltd., 100 Wigmore Street, London, W1A 3RA. Phone 01-486 8554 or 486 0416. L600

For Sale and Wanted

COMPENDIUM OF SIXTH FORM AND TERTIARY COLLEGES 1982

These 16–19 colleges educate an ever-increasing proportion of Higher Education applicants.

£4 POST FREE from:
A. J. DOBELL, Barnsley Sixth Form College
Huddersfield Road
Barnsley
South Yorkshire S75 1DB

Examiners

The Associated Examining Board

CHIEF EXAMINER FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE

The Board invites applications from persons qualified for the post of Chief Examiner for Computer Science in papers at Ordinary level for the 1984 examination.

Computer Science is a developing subject and candidates are increasingly required to meet the demands of the above. Applicants for this post must have a degree in Computer Science or equivalent qualification, and a minimum of four years' teaching experience. Experience of examining is desirable.

Further information and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary, Associated Examining Board (AEB), The Associated House, Stag Hill, Guildford, Surrey GU2 5XJ. Telephone: (0483) 506506. Applications, which must be completed on the forms provided, should be received no later than 1st November, 1982. H

The Associated Examining Board

CHIEF EXAMINER FOR PSYCHOLOGY

The Board invites applications from persons qualified in Psychology at degree level or equivalent, and with a minimum of four years' recent relevant experience and examining experience.

Further information and an application form may be obtained from the Secretary, Associated Examining Board (AEB), The Associated House, Stag Hill, Guildford, Hampshire GU2 5XJ. Forms whom completed not later should be returned not later than three weeks after the appearance of this advertisement. H37

PRINCETON UNIVERSITY
DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY

JUNIOR POSITION IN MODERN BRITISH HISTORY

The Department of History at Princeton University solicits applications for a junior position in the History of Britain Since 1760.

Applicants should send a complete curriculum vitae and have three letters of recommendation forwarded by November 15th to:

Lawrence Stone,
Chairman
British History Search Committee
Department of History
Princeton University
Princeton
New Jersey 08544 USA

Haverford College
Pennsylvania, USA

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ENGLISH LITERATURE, SPECIALTY RENAISSANCE

PhD or DPhil required by September 1983. Three year appointment, renewable 1985. Possibility re-appointment leading to tenure. Send vitae, transcripts, three references to: Professor James O. Reason, Chairman, Department of English, Haverford College, Haverford, PA 19041. Application deadline December 1st 1982. Equal Opportunity Affirmative Action Employer. H13

UNIVERSITY COLLEGE OF BAHRAIN

TWO CHIEF SCIENCE TECHNICIANS, ONE IN BIOLOGY AND ONE IN CHEMISTRY

University College of Arts, Science and Education invites applications for the above posts. Duties will cover the following areas:

1. In-service training and supervising of technical staff in Biology, Chemistry, General Science, and pre-medical studies.
2. Routine maintenance of advanced laboratory instrumentation.
3. Organisation of stores and services.

Candidates with sound/extensive experience in one or more of the above areas should apply in writing, citing three referees, to The Rector, University College of Bahrain, PO Box 1082, Manama, Bahrain. Applications should include a detailed resume of training and experience, and be received not later than Thursday, 11th November 1982.

Salary will be on a scale starting at BD.6981 pa tax-free. Hard furnished accommodation, education grant and annual leave travel are provided.

University of Arkansas
Department of English

ASSISTANT PROFESSORS

Applications are invited for three assistant professorships at a minimum salary of $17,000 and a maximum of $21,000 for teaching 12 hours per semester. Any specialization in English is considered, but candidates must demonstrate competence for employment as scholars and teachers. Ph.D. or D. Phil. required.

Salary and even rank negotiable for candidates with outstanding records of publication.

Send letter and curriculum vitae by 1 December 1982 to Kenneth Kinnamon, Department of English, 339 Communication Center, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701, U.S.A. H12

REMINDER

COPY FOR CLASSIFIED ADVERTISEMENTS IN THE

T.H.E.S.

SHOULD ARRIVE NOT LATER THAN 10.00 AM MONDAY PRECEDING THE PUBLICATION

PLEASE NOTE FURTHER CLASSIFIED ADVERTISING APPEARS ON PAGE 4

Don'sdiary

Sunday

Can hardly believe my good fortune. Arrived two days early for session 217 (technology and human relations) of the Salzburg seminar programme at Schloss Leopoldskron and have already had a small share of the pleasures of Austria: Free beer and wine on the flight and accommodation for two nights in a farmhouse with balconies full of geraniums in the traditional style. I sallied forth from here on Friday evening and got drunk with some Germans at a *Gasthaus*. Saturday provided an opportunity for rambling round the city centre – coffee and ice-cream at the Fonnicelli Cafe to the strains of a brass band in the square below. After Glasgow, pure magic!

Today, Sunday, I took up residence in the *Schloss* in a room which must have one of the best views in the house. It overlooks the lake which is framed in the distance by the Untersberg mountain, straddling the Austro-Bavarian border. As I have arrived before my Israeli roommate, I am invited by my guide to commandeer the window bed. I do this without advance knowledge of its disadvantages. Nine months after being accepted as a visiting fellow on the programme, I've arrived. Spend most of the rest of the day engaged in mutual introductions – faculty from Britain, the United States and Europe, fellows from just about everywhere. A guided tour of the *Schloss* is followed by cocktails on the terrace outside. Not for nothing did the makers of the *Sound of Music* use it for location shots. Carp plop massively in the lake, wine plops pleasingly into glasses. Later in my room a lone mosquito circles my bed imitating those German reconnaissance aircraft in the *Cruel Sea*. Trouble is brewing!

Monday

The conference begins. The morning is devoted to a lecture on technology by a Harvard professor who might reasonably vie with Jowett for custody of the aphorism "what I know not is not knowledge". He seems to have served on every presidential commission since the days of Theodore Roosevelt and has worked with Thomas Khun, the paradigm man. I'm enormously impressed. However, as he talks the incubus of a heresy stirs in the asylum of my mind. Why, as appears to be the case, are the conference organizers so intent on employing yesterday's teaching technology (chalk and talk, lecture) to convey the shape of and the problems with tomorrow's changing technologies and organizations?

Lunch is in the Marble Room of the *Schloss*. The chandeliers and portraits which overhang and surround us are enormous as are the servings of dumplings. Washed down by beer, such food will surely act as an *autobahn* on the passage to physiological destruction. Fortunately, there is a large swimming pool nearby. A couple of lengths is all that is required to demonstrate the potentially disastrous effects of *Wiener Schnitzel* and *Salzburger Nockerl*. Tonight, however, temptation again prevails. In the basement of the building is a *Bierstube* where beer and wine can be put on account for 10 Austrian Schillings each. This will spell death to my determination to cut down on the amount of alcohol usually consumed at conferences. I creep late to bed. The lone mosquito has summoned help. It comes in the form of small but determined groups of entomological JU88s. In tight formation their targetting is accurate and precise. Sleep is punctuated by the persistent drone of blood-laden insects.

Tuesday

Feeling decidedly jaded, stomach distended with the remains of several bottles of Austrian light and with a face looking even more than usual like a colour plate from an atlas of the moon (even my bumps have bumps), I brave my way through breakfast. Soft-boiled eggs and coffee render the immediate world a little more habitable. Dark feelings are not relieved however by the insane smile on the face of my roommate. So intent have the little buggers been on feasting on the occupant of the window bed that his sleep and facial features have been left completely undisturbed. A lecture on leadership from an American scholar follows breakfast. I cannot believe that its central love and harmony message is going to be taken seriously by British management and workers.

Wednesday and Thursday

An excellent lecture from our eminent English faculty member on Wednesday morning entitled, "The Economic Context of Technological Change". A model of lucidity and succinctness, beautifully done. Follow this in the afternoon by going on a conducted tour of the city with most of the other Fellows. The guide has nothing about churches, I cannot summon up her enthusiasm for the divine. By Thursday, we are heavily into the "Quality of working life" movement and industrial democracy. Feel that an evangelistic element is at work in some of the presentations. But, at least it's openly acknowledged.

Friday

A day devoted to discussion of the imminent biotechnological revolution. I am introduced to the arcane world of Mendelian genes, blastocysts, biosynthesis and lysis. Decide to play hookey in the afternoon. On a walk round the lake I have another strange encounter with insects. An old Salzburger *Frau* accosts me and explains to me that she has a fly stuck in her ear. After protestations I agree to extract it with a ballpoint pen which she produces from her handbag. My German instructors in Glasgow are simply not going to believe this. Later, I hitch a lift over the German border to Berchtesgaden. Have been told that there's a cuckoo-clock factory there. I rashly promised to take such a timepiece home. End up buying the father and mother of all cuckoo clocks – God knows how I'll get it back. End the day in the basement in the usual way. So equipped, I am partly prepared for the aerial assault. Like Stukas with the remnants of PQ17 in their sights, the blighters pick me off with impunity.

Saturday

After another lecture on OWL a useful piece of intelligence falls like a ripe plum into my lap. A Swiss Fellow has discovered a shop in Salzburg selling an electrical device for repelling insects. You plug it into an electric socket and the resulting smell forms a protective screen. Half an hour after buying and inserting it into the bedroom wall, the mosquitoes have gone. Spend the afternoon in contemplation in the library. Someone has discovered an article sending up international conferences with the Veblenian title "The Leisure of the Theory Class". It is a tour de force. Presumably its author is an academic kamikaze pilot. How can he show his face at such a gathering again? As the last week of the conference ends (we have two weeks left with lots of goodies in store), I realize how lucky I've been to come to such an idyllic setting in the midst of the tragedy of unemployment and economic recession back home. I am now *Insektenfrei* and tomorrow we are going to Salzkammergut.

Douglas Pitt

The author is lecturer in administration at the University of Strathclyde.

A little light for the FE shadows

Tessa Blackstone

Further education in Britain has always been the least glamorous sector of our educational system. Even nursery education has excited more public interest and had a better image. Perhaps that has something to do with its clients – golden haired toddlers playing with coloured squares, triangles and rectangles in the interest of developing their mathematical skill appeals to all of us. Or at least to nearly all of us, and those to whom it doesn't cannot admit it because it would look like being something close to a child hater, next only in social unacceptability to a child molester.

The clients of further education, on the other hand, are mainly older adolescents or young adults with little to recommend them. They are the people who failed to get into higher education, even though they succeeded in keeping off the streets.

University students have an image which ranges from the *jeunesse doree*, future-of-our-society-staked-in-them to the slightly irresponsible layabouts but nevertheless tolerated as such, because their heads are also on higher things, even if only some of the time. Students in further education, on the other hand, have no image at all. They are the underclass of our educational system.

It is, however, not only the lack of any public conception of the clients of the system, it is also the institutions themselves that have failed to excite the public's imagination. Glamour, some would argue, is a commodity of dubious value. It trivializes the serious nature of things. But that is all too upright and narrow a view. A little bit more glamour could go a long way to revitalize further education and to provide it with more clients and even more resources. What then should be done to glamorize it?

It might be worth borrowing some ideas from the American community colleges which in many ways are the most interesting institutions in the American education system. Unlike any other part of the system they are growing. The *New York Times* recently described them as being "besieged by students" after "two decades of extraordinary growth" in which their number has nearly doubled from 660 to 1,200. If only we could say the same of further education colleges.

A substantial part of this growth in community colleges is accounted for by the enrolment of part-time mature students. Whereas the major American universities, like their British counterparts, have done little to encourage or support part-time students, the community colleges have stepped in and filled the gap.

The first reason why community colleges are more glamorous than further educaton colleges is that their Associate in Arts (AA) or Science (AS) courses, while leading to a recognized qualification with which students can end their studies, can also count as the first two years of a degree course in a state college or university. With this qualification they can transfer to one of those institutions to do the last two years of a four-year Bachelor's degree. No such flexibility applies in the British system: an FE student with good TEC or BEC qualifications would not get a look in as far as gaining any credits for them towards a degree course elsewhere. The fact that community colleges are a first rung on the ladder towards the most prestigious qualifications for at least some students gives the institutions a status which is hard for our FE college to obtain.

The second reason why they have glamour is that they are housed in many cases in attractive buildings with excellent facilities. The student in a community college need not feel a second-class citizen as a result of his or her environment. One college in downtown Oakland, note, not in a rich suburb, but with many students from poor ethnic minority groups, has a superb theatre and sports facilities as well as well-equipped workshops, science and language laboratories and kitchens, where students take courses not in catering but in Culinary Arts! It is not untypical.

The standards in community colleges compare well with the four-year state colleges. Anyone who has visited a sample of further education colleges would come away with a very different impression. If the students in them had not already picked up the fact they they were not among the blessed and favoured, a tour of their buildings when they arrived would ram this home pretty fast, particularly if they went to have a look at their local university the next day.

Admittedly many community colleges have been build in the last 20 years whereas most further education colleges date from long before this period and are usually a hotch-potch of conversions and additions as they have been added to over the years. But this does not excuse the huge gap that exists between their facilities and the rest of higher education.

The third reason for the glamour of the community colleges is that they do serve their local communities in a variety of respects, which can make them a source of pride. They have completely open access; anyone can enrol without any previous qualifications. Entry is unselective on a first-come-first-served basis, although some courses have requirements in basic mathematics or English. In this sense they provide genuine "second chance" education and are perceived as such. While entry to some FE courses does not demand prior qualifications, many do.

Much of the unglamorous image of FE colleges in Britain is a matter of resources. They have consistently been treated badly when the cake is divided up. That should change. Part of the problem is a lack of imagination on the part of those at central and local government levels and in the institutions themselves, who devise the policies that determine how the colleges are run. That should change too.

Union view

Preaching to the political deaf

University clerical and related staffs took their 1982 pay claim to arbitration last week, coinciding with National Education Week, and the two events are connected in many ways.

The cloistered headquarters of the Central Arbitration Committee, just behind the House of Lords and that glorious car park sign which says "Peers Only", is a world away from the Family Income Supplement which thousands of university white collar staff can claim (even the employers admit that one in five of the total are eligible for FIS). The negotiators trooped into Abbey Gardens, (on the Prime Minister's birthday, incidentally), and said their piece about the 12 per cent claim for 1982 and the university employers pleaded poverty and stuck to the 4 per cent limit. The award will come out in November and will no doubt be a figure in between the two and clerical staff will once again subsidize the university system by accepting poverty wages.

What can be done about this for the future? This year's Trades Union Congress has adopted a policy advocating a common pay strategy for 1983 which includes special protection for the lower paid. The university unions, representing teaching and non-teaching staff, will be meeting later this month to consider a joint campaign on pay, an important development which may have lasting consequences for universities.

Any strategy which tries to embrace salaries ranging from £42,000 a year (vice chancellors) to £2,500 a year or less (many clerical and manual staff) is bound to create problems and tensions. Any attempt to help the low paid in line with TUC policy (which all the university unions supported) could well lead to a position where those earning more will be asked to accept less or even nothing next year.

Conversely, if one campus union (say the AUT) asks for solidarity by other workers in support of any industrial action they may wish to take it will be an interesting sight to observe porters and secretaries on professional picket lines. However,

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these are problems which the unions are prepared to face up to. Who knows? A joint pay campaign across the binary line with colleagues in the maintained sector of higher education is also a distinct possibility.

Closely allied to pay is the autumn campaign on student grants which will be strongly supported by the unions both on grounds of justice and enlightened self-interest. After all, if students cannot afford to live in halls of residence, eat canteen food and buy books written by our academics we are all losers in universities (and the book publishers and food wholesalers are not too happy either).

National Education Week was just the start of the attempt to put education back on to the political agenda and to build up towards what will become, hopefully, a new Education Act to take us forward from 1944. The TUC's Educational Alliance, which is supported by Nalgo and the other university unions, will now be planning the next stage but what is certain is that the campus unions will act together to argue the case for higher education, not at the expense of other sectors of education and certainly not in favour of the present structures in higher education, but positively as one contribution to the whole educational process.

That we have failed to fight our corner for education in the past must be acknowledged and that failure is reflected, not in the emergence of Think Tank proposals which are an irrelevance, but in the absence of a public fight-back against education cuts.

Keith Hampson, in last week's *THES* and *TES*, expressed surprise that there was no education lobby at the Conservative Party conference – no unions or parents or students to emphasize the importance of education. He should not be surprised. Perhaps somebody should tell him that lobbying is all about talking to people who will listen and trying to persuade people who might just have a change of heart. No one wants to waste their energy on waving banners at the educational blind and shouting at the political deaf.

Instead, through the Educational Alliance, we shall aim at the enjuriety – those who could not even tell you where the Tory Party Conference was held this year because they are not interested in party politics and those who have been let down by the education system (which officially does not cater for what Keith Joseph calls "the bottom 40 per cent").

So, the fight for education through the Educational Alliance and the fight against low pay for university clerical and related staff are two sides of the same coin of deprivation. If workers in the universities choose to keep their heads down they must not be surprised if they find themselves isolated and ignored.

Rita Donaghy

The author is chairperson of Nalgo's National University Committee and the trade union side of UCNS.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Planning exercise poses impossible question

Sir, – Now that details of the National Advisory Body's planning exercise are known, it may be appropriate to suggest that perhaps the wrong question has been put to the institutions. NAB requires each institution to nominate publicly those courses, schools, departments, perhaps even faculties, which *would* be closed if revenue budgets were reduced by 10 per cent in 1984/85 (compared with 1982/83).

This is analogous to inviting a father to consider the hypothetical case in which he, his wife, and four children have been adrift in a liferaft so long that it is necessary for them to kill and eat one of the children. That child is to be chosen – presumably by adopting and applying a clear set of rational criteria – and informed that he would be eaten if ever the real need arose. The relationship between the chosen child and the parents is not likely to improve. Even the three other children are likely to look upon each other and upon their parents in a new light. Little consideration appears to have been given to harm done or to the difficulties of institutions forced to cope with it.

The question may be justified if it results in the information which NAB needs to carry out its task. But will it do so? There appears to be an implicit assumption that when NAB receives responses from the 100 or so major institutions and 250 other colleges offering AFE courses then these plans will interlock neatly into a rational and clear pattern. I suggest that they are not likely to do so. NAB will then inevitably turn for advice to DES, HMI, CNAA, RAC, etc. That advice is available now. Together with statistics on enrolments over perhaps the past three to five years, including 1982, it would provide an adequate basis for planning for 1984/85 without the unsatisfactory debates which must now take place.

Alternatively, if institutional priorities were sought then would it not have been possible to frame the question in a positive rather than a negative form?

Yours faithfully,
W. L. ALLAN,
Deputy Director – Academic & Resource Planning,
Birmingham Polytechnic.

Moonie weaknesses

Sir, – Mr McCann's letter (*The THES*, October 15) points to weaknesses in my published case concerning Moonie conferences. Some of these undoubtedly fall to me, while others must be laid at the door of a hard-pressed sub-editor making last minute delections without, perhaps, just enough attention to sense and context.

Mr McCann accuses me of not saying everything I know about the Moonies – or perhaps even everything there is to know – in 2,000 words, I plead guilty to this failing. Mr McCann believes staying at university to be more important than following the Moonies. I know which I prefer, of course, but I'm afraid I lack his unshakable conviction that God wishes all of us to pursue first the kingdom of education, and only then the kingdom of heaven.

What Mr McCann really dislikes, of course, is that the Moonies do not behave in the stolid, moribund fashion of English Baptist or Anglican, that in their enthusiasm to follow God they are willing to reject so much that he holds dear, such as a university education, or contact with disapproving, even hostile parents. Hence, they are stereotyped in his mind along with the horrors of the People's Temple, and I can be accused of fiddling while another potential Jonestown drifts towards its death throes. ". . . No amount of assimilation within sociological categories will persuade" Mr McCann otherwise.

Thus, he has made up his mind already on such matters, and thereby displays precisely the dogmatism of which he so readily accuses the Moonies. Nothing I can say will have any effect on Mr McCann.

I fear, and I will, therefore, continue to feel that the Moonie postgraduate students – sent on to elite American and Canadian graduate schools by their church after a period of service and fund-raising – who attend the conferences, engage with me with rather more of an open mind.

Yours sincerely,
ROY WALLIS,
Professor of Sociology,
The Queen's University of Belfast.

Bias inquiry

Sir, – In his article (*THES*, October 15) on the inquiry into allegations of bias in the SSRC Industrial Relations Research Unit at Warwick University, Paul Flather described me as "Professor Hugh Clegg, the unit's first director, with close links to both the TUC and the Labour Party."

It might be helpful to your readers if he gave particulars of these links. I myself would be interested to learn of my connexion with the Labour Party; and also with the TUC – except for those links which, as a student of industrial relations, I have striven to cultivate with the Confederation of British Industry as well.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH CLEGG,
University of Warwick.

Sir, – In *The THES* (October 15) in the article "When bias can be binding' I am reported as having said in my report to the Government on the Social Science Research Council that sociologists were "chronically afflicted" by bias'.

This statement is false. I said nothing of the sort.

Yours faithfully,
ROTHSCHILD,
11 Herschel Road,
Cambridge.

Available theses

Sir, – I am engaged in compiling a *Guide to the Availability of Theses in Libraries of Institutions of Higher Education other than Universities* under the auspices of the International Federation of Library Associations. This project is an extension of the work carried out by D. H. Borchardt for his *Guide to the Availability of Theses* which was published for IFLA in 1981. Institutions included by Borchardt will not be listed in my compilation.

Questionnaires have been distributed during August and September 1982 to many libraries of institutions of higher education around the world However. I am conscious that some institutions have almost certainly been overlooked.

Therefore I should be most pleased to hear from any librarian of an institution of higher education which grants awards or degrees at a post-graduate level (that is Masters, doctoral, or the equivalent) who has not received a request from me to provide information on the availability of theses.

G. G. ALLEN,
Principal Librarian,
T. L. Robertson Library,
Western Australian Institute of Technology, Kent Street,
Bentley Western Australia 6102.

H. S. Chamberlain

Sir, – In his interesting account of Houston Stewart Chamberlain (*THES*, October 8) Ivor Morgan attributes the origins of Lenin's theory of imperialism to the work of J. A Hobson. It seems more likely that Lenin obtained his inspiration from Hegel's *Philosophy of Right*. In his discussion of the problem of poverty in industrialized nations, Hegel wrote: "It hence becomes apparent that despite an excess of wealth civil (or bourgeois) society is not rich enough, i.e. its own resources are insufficient to check excessive poverty and the creation of a penurious rabble. . . This inner dialectic of civil society thus drives it. . . to push beyond its limits and seek markets, and so its necessary means of subsistence, in other lands which are either deficient in the goods it has over-produced, or else generally backward in industry, etc," In his lectures he added the comment "Civil society is thus driven to found colonies."

Hegel wrote this in 1821. The coincidence between his words and those Dr Morgan attributes to Hobson is striking.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY MANSER,
Department of Philosophy,
University of Southampton.

Name change

Sir, – This institute is unconnected with the Institute for Labour Affairs, mentioned recently in your columns. We have made no appeal for funds, but receive some administrative support from Thames Polytechnic. The institute's purpose is to promote impartial and scholarly research, in cooperation with industry in the south-east. To avoid confusion, and to emphasize the regional orientation, the name is to be changed to Thames Institute of Industrial Relations.

Yours faithfully,
DR CHARLES R. DOBSON,
Director of Studies,
Institute of Industrial Relations,
Thames Polytechnic.

Animal experiments

Sir, – I am writing in support of Mr Ian Hamnett (*THES*, October 8) who objected to your headline "Stricter animal controls threatened" in your issue of September 24. I suggest that editorial control should also have been exercised over the facetious tone of the neighbouring article "Aping the worst side of life". The question of how far experiments on living animals are morally and scientifically justifiable is too serious a one to allow for such flippancy.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY GORDON,
10 Fell Close,
Albany Village,
Washington,
Tyne and Wear

Continuing education

Sir, – As you rightly pointed out in your leader ('Reconstructing Robbins' *THES*, October 15), continuing education will play a prominent part in the re-alignment of higher education in the 1980s and 1990s.

Continuing education is a term that appears to present a picture of comfortable uniformity in a situation that is in fact marked by its very lack of homogeneity.

What is still missing is the national discussion about market identificatin of new areas within continuing education, and equally important, the realistic application of teaching/learning approaches. The development of Pick-up and Open Tech are only a step in this direction.

The great irony about the demise of the Robbins principle is that many of our adult graduate students who now want to continue their higher education were themselves beneficiary of his principle in the 1960s and 1970s. What is now needed is a national discussion about change, about possibilities and all relating to the changing profile of the adult student in continuing higher education. He is no longer the undergraduate queuing with his ration ticket, but a discerning customer in an increasingly competitive educational market.

Yours sincerely,
MICHAEL NASH,
School of Management,
Leicester Polytechnic.

College spending

Sir, – J. McKenzie in "Can Local Authorities Afford to Give Up Higher Education?" (*THES*, July 16) estimated that the Bolton district economy received a net return of £14,414,500 per annum, from the £1.2m per annum support paid by the Bolton Metropolitan Council to the Bolton Institute of Higher Education by the addition of an extra 3p on the rates.

We consider that this amount overstates the benefits for the following reasons. Firstly, a multiplier of 3 is not supported by recent empirical studies and a maximum value of 1.2 for the Bolton area would seem more realistic. Secondly, it is incorrect to value the expenditure of 300 full-time students living at home as £1,425 per annum. If the college were to close then their expenditures would fall by £325 per annum because they could receive social security benefits of £1,100 per annum. Thirdly, the £100,000 attributed to Direct College Expenditure should not be excluded from the multiplicand.

In the light of the above comments, a figure of £5.5m would seem to be a more reliable estimate of the economic benefits to the Bolton area. This still represents a significant return for an investment of £1.2m.

Yours faithfully,
R. F. RUEL,
P. TAYLOR,
T. W. TAURLOW,
Department of Economics and Social Sciences,
Bristol Polytechnic.

Concern over Ulster merger

Sir, – One aspect of the proposed merger of the New University of Ulster with the Ulster Polytechnic causes particular concern. We suspect that potential employers, believing Chilver's reported evidence that Coleraine's academic standards are lower than elsewhere, may tend to discriminate against applicants with Coleraine degrees.

If the merger goes ahead without an emphatic denial that this is the case, we fear that promising careers may be jeopardized for some years to come. Whatever the Government's reasons for enforcing the merger, Chilver's evidence on standards at Coleraine has been justly criticized as being, at the least, partial and misleading.

As academics who have been connected with biological and environmental sciences in Coleraine as external examiners, lecturing staff, postgraduate research workers and undergraduates, we would like to affirm that academic standards at Coleraine have been just as high as at other UK universities. Furthermore, many features of the courses and research in biological and environmental subjects at Coleraine have made distinctive and pioneering contributions whose worth stands in danger of being diminished by the unhappy atmosphere surrounding the birth of the present merger.

With some concern, therefore, we call urgently on those responsible to state unequivocally that the merger in no way devalues degrees awarded previously.

Yours sincerely,
DR T. J. PITCHER,
School of Animal Biology,
University College of North Wales,
Bangor, Gwynedd.

(This letter is also signed by four other former teaching staff, five external examiners and 11 former students).

Sir, – There has been an increasing attention paid of late to the proposed merger of the Ulster Polytechnic and the New University of Ulster at Coleraine.

It is disappointing firstly that this interest has been engendered not by the potential of the new combined institution but by the petty territorial wranglings over who doesn't get the vice chancellorship.

It is disappointing secondly that NUU has only been able to muster energy for negative ends designed to prevent and not to promote.

It is disappointing thirdly that the academic staff unions are also pursuing narrow private rivalries rather than turning their combined attention to a constructive exploration of the possibilities.

In this community and in this economic climate those of us at both NUU and the polytechnic are lucky to have jobs and we should not lose sight of the fact that our express *raison d'etre* is to improve the quality of life for the members of the community whose needs we exist to serve. It will be an obscenity if we permit ourselves any further indulgence in the exercise of our professionally developed skills of tactical manoeuvring and verbal jousting. These are, in this context, dilettante pursuits indeed.

This is a time to be large and of the two institutions only the polytechnic so far has found that note When the merger was first proposed and then set in train with the appointment of the steering committee the polytechnic would have been forgiven had it chosen to complain of its role as compulsory donor in a transplant operation designed to revitalize an institution whose independent existence was insecure.

However, the polytechnic accepted that it was entering upon a recreative phase which would inevitably mean losses, changes and uncertainty for some time. It faced that challenge as it has consistently faced challenge, positively and with vigour. The major constructive proposals on the nature and organization of the new institution have emanated from the polytechnic in the person of its rector, Derek Birley. Sadly, and self-destructively, NUU has not focused on developing the potential of our joint future but has chosen to concentrate on juvenile and subjective sabotage campaigns.

This is a time to be large and the managements of both existing institutions and all of the staff unions involved should work to find the objectivity necessary to rise above selfish concerns and join in the realization of this potentially exciting merger.

I write this letter as a member of the academic staff of the polytechnic from its inception; as someone who would wish to see several changes in the structure of the polytechnic; but finally as some who is glad to be a part of an academic establishment with blood in its veins and the will to face challenge constructively. It should not be forgotten, in the interests of justice, that this is the house that Derek built.

Yours faithfully,
LYNDA HENDERSON,
Senior Lecturer in English and Theatre Studies,
Ulster Polytechnic.

Lecturers' salaries

Sir, – The salary policy of the National Association of Teachers in Further and Higher Education as stated in *The THES*, (October 8), looks excellent for FE college staff but it is yet again unsatisfactory for lecturers in polytechnics.

At the top of the career grade there is, of course, a discrepancy (at last acknowledged) between the polytechnic and university salaries for which Natfhe must be held mainly responsible following its policy of continual erosion of salary differentials. Comparable anomalies have been created elsewhere in the scales.

The latest Natfhe remedies are unlikely to improve the situation. Their proposal to put an extra increment at the top of the SL scale will thereby bring the SL scale up to PL bar thus devaluing even the promotion to PL. Should these proposals be accepted, it will make future moves to attain parity with university salaries that much more difficult because any percentage rise to bring the scales level would take the career grade in a polytechnic above that for a university.

The Natfhe proposal to merge LI and LII scales would be so costly that increases in other higher salary grades would need to be kept sacrificially low to maintain the overall settlement within a specific national budget. Yet again, by this tactic, Natfhe would seem to be trying to reduce the scale differentials for polytechnic lecturers.

At the time of Houghton, parity with university salaries was claimed. Could it be that such parity is, in reality, irrelevant to the majority of Natfhe members, so once more the polytechnic sector of education will be short-changed for the sake of the majority of its members who remain in FE?

Yours faithfully,
C. HUNTER,
Polytechnic lecturer,
Old Down,
Tockington,
Bristol.

Letters for publication should arrive by Tuesday morning. They should be as short as possible and written on one side of the paper. The editor reserves the right to cut or amend them if necessary.